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#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Series 1. Correspondence, 1846-1896.

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Correspondence, 1844-1846

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My fond Husband Clinton Hill May 19th /44

I can not let this opportunity slip without saying something to you, how delighted I was this evening when John came & handed me an affectionate letter from you, your writing, it revived me more than any thing in the world, and (Oh) that you may continue to mend untill you recover entirely, which will afford me more real pleasure than any thing in this world — Mr Joyner was here when John came read your letter and observed you could set out early [illegible] you are able The Money is at your service, I will [illegible] Ned up with your Clothes in a few days be carefull when you leave off your pants & vest take off the pants one day & the vest the next I send your Syringe was truly sorry it was forgotten we are getting along very smoothly I hire Billy for 50¢ pr day Cash a litter better than jobbing at home they are quite obedient I can find no fault, Henry looks badly but keeps at work I am giving him bitters says he feels better the Children are all asleep & well & will send their love Beverly says he is going to Mr Thurmans to see you they enquire after you every day I am tolerably well I keep as still as possible but not much difference you can guess what accept a share of my fondest regards, my respects to Mr Taurman & Tiles
yr fond Ann

Mr. F. C. Thurman

Present

$6\frac{3}{4}$
6
$6\frac{3}{4}$
$7\frac{1}{5}$
6
$32\frac{1}{2}$

My Dear John Oct 7th 1846

I received yrs yesterday dated Sept 24 in which you complained very much of our negligence I wrote to you the week you started saying to you the Buggie was landed safe at Mr Dickeys without an accident at all;

Now I will proceed to tell you what has transpired since I last wrote, I have had quite a severe spell of sickness this is the fourth day I have been out of the bed am quite weak, but feel like I shall soon be well again I had to call in Dr Pleasants, he relieved me in three days dont be uneasy I have written precisely how I am;

Black Jinny is dead she was found by Amos Gale in the night when he returned from his work lying on the hearth speechless she never spoke or swallowed any thing, had an appoplexy fit I think, and Harriet has lost her infant Dr Pleasants was called in to see it the week before it died he had no hopes

of it then says he never saw such a case those sores were the cause of its death —

We ar getting on much after the old sort some of the hands pick 2..24 lbs cotton a day I have had the Gin fixed the Cotton looks rather better I think we shall be able to get it out early in the season I shall send 5 Bales to Memphis in a few days which I hope will bring me 10 cts

Your kin are all well and we are hard at work fixing Kate for School or I would more Willy sends love, to you in her last letter and so did Aunt — Michie I am glad to hear you are so much and hope you will continue so, and be studious for you are growing so fast you cant study too fast dont forget your christian duties its the surest foundation on earth and all that will sustain us when we come to leave this world all join in much love to you all will in Memphis may God of his infinite mercy bless and save you is the prayer of your Devoted Mama

Ann C Thurman

Morning Sun Tenn Paid
Oct 8th 1846

Paid 5

Mr John . P. Thurman

Covington

Tipton . Cty

Mail

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Correspondence, 1850

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Novr 19th 1850

Dear Daughter

I am writeing to night for the Packet it has not reached here yet on its upward trip, but we shall look with much anxiety to marrow we are much Interesed for the well-fare of its Commander and a verry interesting passenger it will take back they are such as we always like to extende our haspatality too — We are injoying good health at this time The people of our Country are obeying a comand given long since to multiply and replenish the Earth your cousin Harriett Gallaway Matilda Berry and Mrs Dr Chambers has each a daughter born last week — Miss Sophronia Philips is maried to a young Mr Buck — we here that Mr J. L Dickey and Miss Lieuiza Trice will marry this week old uncle James Scruggs & and Miss Norah Mahar is nearly ready — The articals you wanted us to purchase for you we sent by Mr Miller for. All artickels of dress that you may nied at any time you had better consult Mrs Miller about before you send to us for them she is a better Judg of what will suit than any person of your age. I shall be very happy to be with you all Christmas if I can get there your Cousins Mrs Allen & Gallaway says they will come up, I will try to fetch or send Emma up

You said you had joined the C. P. Church, We hail you as a Sister and and fondly hope that you may ever live an acceptable member and if you are guided by that precious treasure the blessed Bible you will not be likely to change your faith

your affectionat father

Robert Ecklin

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Correspondence, 1851

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April 6th 1881

My Dear Daughter-

We received a note from Mrs. Miller by Mr. Kellogg in response to the on written to you conserning the Melodian was verry much obliged to for the information it contained but will acknowledge it to her on one of these pages, you will there fore hand it over when you have read your part, I must confess that I trespassing on the Sabbath in this act as the date above will shew. I attended Church to day at Bethany where I lisned to a verry interesting discourse by Mr Bateman from the 17 Chapter 30 & 31 verses of the Acts of the Apostels, I hope you have also been profitabley entertained to day, I was pleased with the maner you expressed you gratitude for the offer I made you. it shewes that you are thank-ful for small favors and let me again assure you that the gratest thing I can do to aid you in your advancemint is verry small in my estimation while I can here that you are striving to advance and your deportment good. I shall oly regret that my meanes will not allow me to do mare -

Try to advanc in all your Studeys I am well pleased to here that you are taking an interest in Music, in my estimation a young lady is not accomplished without it and it is a studdy that pays even as you go there is nothing dry nor tiresum in it its happy influence on our tempers is worth a life time Studdy and then it ocupyes all that space for Histerics no. our Creator did not give us that bump he give us Musical bumps we have Stifled it and Hippo and Histery took possesion and made us miserable whiere as if we had of cultivated them in proper chanel we would have been happy. So take a hint while you are young what use you make of that Organ.

The letter you wrote to Levena was mislade til it had been written so long I would not put it the office, so you had better ~~write~~ to her amediatily at home as I learn that she will be there about this time, then will leave for some School I no not where - Your ever affectional father

to Sarah Ecklin

Robert Ecklin

Well Emma my ears have been floped a longtime they could not here any thing from you. Hark. I here something at last Emma is on the ladder is she yes, what else. She is comeing up. Verry good my Ears are riseing too and at the Examination they will get Sote and I dont no but finish -ed alittle farward. Emma remember that all have started at the bottom round and some have had harder climbing than you and yet have reach -ed the top round. And for your incoragement that the higher you climb the easer the assent til you will glide up with perfect ease. dont look back but let your Motto be onward and upward.

Some say Em wont write while Sallies there but I say she will write to me soon and a neat little letter too.

Ma. sends her love to you both and be good children til she comes, hers is ahappy lott so long as she has six dutiful daughters

The Children all sends their love to you both An & Manda gets out some evenings an calls you a longtime, little brother calls Ma. all the time his pitiful cries, May the Lord bless you both,

Good Evening

R. E.

P.S

It may be nessary to have a key to read my letters by if so I will give you one now that you can keep for that purpose, it will answer for all that I may write here after, Here it is Jack Downing said thare was an old man built him a ship and named her the A.S.h.a. all the learned folks could not tel what her name was, and says if A.S.h.a dont spell Asia he dont no what does, so if you are to high learnt use the key

Sister Miller

Dear Madam

I am verry much obliged to you for the information your letter contained Conserning the Melodian but should have neglected to acknowledeg it in this way as usual no doutt but for circumstances that might require some explanation. the gentleman and my self di not seem to understand each other Correctly. in the first place he wanted to sell the one he had with him, I told him I would not purchase with out Consulting Sarah (and of Course it was in my mind to consult you and Miss Carpenter as I was interly uninformed in regard to it) but told him distinctly that from the Cutts he exibited that I would prefere one of the largest ones his answer was that it was no better, but he would exchange at any ti[me] I told him he could dispose of it that his others would be in time for me he told me he was going to Macon. asked if I wood write to Sarah, On his return he spoke as though he had left it for her, I told him again I wanted one of the larger. and had not the money reddy to pay, but would be redy by the time he could deliver one, and paid him part in advance, he said it would be unnessesary to cary it up as should take you one at the same time. but if I get it I am verry willing for her to have it until vacation, I asked him if he would not take less than $25.00 for one of the large ons he said not. I told of your mentioning one of the 100. Dollar ones and asked if it was the same quality, said it was but reduced the price to you as was common to such Institutions, I said it was write and satisfide with the explination. He then asked for paper and wrote to you he said afterwards about the Melodian, and also to caution you in your corispondence in regard to the reduced price he offered you one at, These are the facts as near as I recollect them: if I done any wrong in metioning that part of your communication I hope you will pardon me. Your sister E. Joines me in thanks for the interest taken in us and ours with our best wishes for you & yours. Your friend Robert Ecklin

1857

Miss Sarah Ecklin

Macon

Fayett County

Tenn

April 29th 1851

Dear Children

An other hurid note instead of a visit I expected to come up and fetch your dresse to you as I could spare my saddle horse a day or two but alas mishaps and misfortunes awate us in this world of disappointment my good old mule dide last night about 2 Oclock and in stead of haveing one to spare I brakeing buds. Poney to the plough to day Mr Kellogg has cauld to leave your Melodean and kindly offers to carry your dresses to you, If I can not come be fore the examination look for me then it will take sum-thing more than a dead mule to stop me

Your Ma and the Children have all been sick with colds all is well now but Ma and the baby and they are improveing She antesipa-ts a grate time when she gets you all to gether a gain She will want to kill the fated calf but I think it will be a sheep If you have any wants or rather needs in the way of dress for the Examination write me amediately and they shall be attended to, if you want Dresses I think you will have to make them or have them made plase have your knowledge boxes neatly trimed for the occasion put the triming on the inside it will reflect so that every person present will kno its thare, when if you hang it on the out side it only be seen by a few that cluster a round it. may the Lord bless direct and protect you my belovid children

In hast Your Father

Robert Ecklin

Misses Sarah & Emma Ecklin
Macon F. Institute
Fayette County
Ten

Wednesda 11½ Oclock Sept 17th 1851

Dear Children

I will try to devate my time tel dinner in writeing and finesh to night. Yours never came to hand untel last Saturday though it was along time coming it brought us good inteligence that you ware all well and well satesfyde, I think the arangement in your seperation averry wise one and will I doubt not prove satisfactory and profitable to you both,
I have good tidings too we are again blest with health not a chill fever pain or grunt in our family,, Harriet has adaughter I no not whither she has named it or not.
Our whole neighborhood has but little sickness indeed I kno of none except Sarah Patrick and Asbury Crenshaw I was to see the old gentleman Monday evening and expect to go again this evening. He inquired about you and your school wishes me to incourage you to galify your self to teach says he used to love to plague Sarah she was his favorite and always in agood humor, Those few kind words from an old and inteligent gentleman ware verry flatering to a doating Father, but alas all was not joy with me, they brought about atrain of reflections that grieved my verry nature I cant express my feelings but will hint to you some of circumstences while he named you with perfect ese he forbore to name one that you know lay close to his hart you know how he loved and doated on Mary, Then to behold one so inteliget and has used so much industry in the affairs of this world has made and given a fortune to his son and now holds an other himself. Bordering on his Three score and ten year with out any prepareation for Eternity,

And without a Child to Stand by his bead and sooth him in his afflictions his cours may have been wrong to wards his family I dout not but it has but my verry nature is greveed to see a human being neglected in its declining years Espesily a parent will I live to see the time while I have a childe upon earth that not one could Stand by me in my afflictions and minister to me with there own hand I hope not -

9 oclock I have visited my old neighbor found him much improved in heath. I leaned this evening Mrs Stark was sick If you ask why I am so late, Mr Meolen gave us a call late this evening he has just retired. Charlott says Pa. are you writing to Sarah, yes, give my love to Sarah and Emma tel them little brother has two teeth. If you want to no how we getting along without you, I will tell you your Melodian as Downing would express it is as hush as a Cow in a clover lot that is not so good for us all as we would have it. Joshua Bryant makes a regulor hand in the cotten field thats good. Your Ma and Charlott is bisseyly engaged about thir domestic concerns you are both out of thier way and doing well for your selves that is verry good. Dear Sallie Strive to excell in all your studdys neglect not your Relegeous duty. Dear Emma employ your time well with your Books and Strive to make your self happy and agreable to all. Remember thy Creator We will look for that letter and must not be disappointed Your Ma. Joins me in love to you both and to Mr & Mrs Miller Write to us regulorly and lengthy on any subjects you choose God bless you good night, Your affectionot father

Robert Ecklin

1851

Miss Sarah Ecklin
Macon
Fayett County
Tenn

Pr
J Mewborn Esqr

…ect to go

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JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Correspondence, 1852-1854

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Macon F. Inst.
Nov. 1 , 1859

Dear Sallie

Never again promise to me any thing until you shall have fulfilled those before you. You said you would come to see me once every month; it is now exactly the first day of the third month and you have not yet been. I heard that you spent last week in Memphis. you can fly about for pleasure, but cannot fly to Macon.

Sallie Hewborn comes in twice a week to draw excels her class by far. also Eliza Ralston has returned; she is like she is the same old creature; we had a splendid sermon last night at the Methodist church, but I shall not tell you who by — until you or some one else tells me. They seem not to have a protracted meeting now there.

Sallie, I have nothing new to tell you with my pen, but, could with my tongue if your ears were near enough to hear it. Sal, this is but a short letter yet it is longer than I have received from you. Mr. Miller is to start to Lexington Wednesday next. Sal, if you are determined not to write please ask Pa to do so, tell Mother that Pa and she must please come soon I shall

not ask you to come any more, nor to spoil your pen to scratch to me. Martha Sharp has been sick for a ~~m~~ month she has just stepped in with Eda, Sallie Reid says she does not know whether she will come to school or not; she thinks not; Mr Dewoody lectured here one night last week would have lectured again had it not rained.

Emmie

Dear Sallie,

My sanguine hope is, that you may sometime before Christmas recover from the wounds which the foregoing must needs inflict, sufficiently to read this brief note from an old friend, who, while she can but think strange of Sallie's silence still accounts her her heart heart to be at least in the neighborhood of the right place, yes, Sallie's heart has not grown cold, her memory is perchance growing defective, or she may peradventure be blessed with & by numerous correspondents more genial & fascinating than are the Maconites — Solve the mystery I cannot but habit has so long confirmed me in viewing the bright side that I shall not now go in quest of a dark side to this picture. Do you know Dear S. that to-morrow

is to be "Election-Day," and that our House designs to send in 30 votes, All either for Franklin Pierce of the Granite State; or, for Winfield Scott of the Old Dominion. Emma moves on learning well & looking tranquil as Venus, save when she realizes that at Home she is not the absorbing theme—else would they write to her almost every mail— Lavinia is writing her Ma to-day & declares her satisfaction here & her preference for this school over that at Lexington except that is not near enough Home Others would have it nearer Memphis, Whiteville, Germantown, Wolf-River Bottom, etc. While you I fancy would merely move it to Morning Sun so you might join our nice Drawing Class— Geological Students &c &c. Having taken a general survey of the rest of mankind, don't you verily believe that yr dr Bro. Willey & our precious Cara are the soundest & most practical philosophers among us? They forsooth take the world as it sways. It seems Anna Porter's health has to a great extent failed.—
The leading request I beg leave to make of my Sallie, is, that she will send her dear Parents some Friday soon after Mr Miller's return from Synod to stay with us a while

and come soon after herself; if she cannot come then methinks she might join them quite easily in a visit to her "Alma Mater."

Warm regards to Mother Edwards, Love to the children all & their parents. — To-morrow Bro Pooler is to be here en route to Lexington, the occasion will not be suited to an attempt at religious exercises.

Thine in much love dear S.

C. E. W. Miller

San Francisco California July 30th/53

Dearest Sallie,

In a fit of deep despondency your your affectionate little note reached me.— I need not tell you how quick my countenance regained its smile, and how the "blues" were vanquished for a time at least.

I wish you could know how much your letter afforded me and how much I prize it—. It brings back to my mind old scenes endeared to me by the strongest ties by which the past can be united to the present— it brings fresh before my minds eye, the happy hours I have passed with thee when you was my schoolmate, my companion and then as now (I hope) my dearest friend; then no more reproach yourself that your "few lines are any thing but interesting" to me for I assure you that anything is interesting, provided your dear hand has traced each line, and your thinking powers have been exercised on each sentence; for every line but displays that character that I have so often seen, admired, and loved.

Sallie I need not tell thee that thou art missed

in my walks and in my seasons of idlings.

How pleasant it was to step across to the Institute, there to while away my leisure moments in social chitchat with one to whom my heart still clings. Oh! how oft have I sighed that those happy moments could not be realized again. But what is past is past.

I have something to tell you which, I think will please you — Brother and I are (I expect) coming home this winter to school, and I shall endeavor to see you again; you ask for my signature, but I think it will please you quite as well to get a peep at the original as at the shadow, and besides the sea air, in some instances takes away the impression entirely, and always affects the likeness more or less, this I know for we had some with us which it affected a good deal though not enough to injure them.

But I suppose you have enough of my "nonsense" so I shall try for varieties sake to give you something else, than mere bursts of passion, longing for the past which will tend amazingly to make my letter interesting to one whom I have always regarded as superior to myself, an opinion with which few are honoured I assure you.

The Fourth of July was celebrated in grand

style not only by the boys with fire crackers but in a manner which I am sure would astonish if you happen to be among the class of sceptichs who believe that California can produce nothing good. In the forenoon we were treated to a grand Military parade, and the troops were reviewed by on the plaza by Major General Sutter, but while we were viewing this interesting exercise, we were startled by the cry of fire and at the sametime by the fire bells. In an instant the flames burst forth from a building not far from the one on whose summit we were standing.

But the engines were promptly on the spot and as a natural consequence the fire did not last long — for here they do not give a fire any chance at all to burn, but put it out immediately. Then all went on nicely till evening when the fire works were exhibited —. It was one of the grandest spectacles I have ever had the pleasure of witnessing.

But it is bed time now and I must be off, although I have not told near all I wanted to. Although I am cutting my letter short, do write often and remember when you are writing to me that any thing is acceptable. Remember me to Emma tell her to write to sister. Oh! Julia wont I be happy if I can come home. Once more let me ask you to write often.

Your most affectionate School mate, Fannie
Harris

P.S. Dear Tallie please to excuse bad writing and all mistakes for I have never looked over it and it is late now and it must be sent to the office early in the morning. Pa just handed me a letter from Helen Carpenter and Bettie C. I shall answer it soon. Tell Ede Brown, Demetria Simms ~~and~~ Emma Neil to write and any of the girls that will. Tell them to write and I will answer their letters. Give my love to all of my acquaintances and friends at home. This is a long Post Script. Write often. I will direct this to Morning Sun as you directed.

Yours &c

Hannie Harish

Dear girls November 3th 1853

how do you do I hope you are quite well and doing well which I have no fears about if you will be thoughtful to governe self and when one speaks an unpleasantly pass it unnoticed it is the quickest way to get rid of unplesant words you no there is great many round you and every cross word you speak to each other will be noticed by some one and it will injure you vary much you will be noticed I've no doubt vary closely you should be industrous you can be a great deal of servis to each other in your studdies and also in manners and religous and morral ~~~~ duties and be sure to be kind to your teachers and they will be kind to you. you must let me no how you are geting along with your studdies and whether Charlott has lerned the Multiplication table

or not I've no doubt but she has
before now I have a vary little mite
of news to a night. Tom Winston
and Sue Tilson was maried last tuesday
at two oclock and went to Memphis
the same evening and I have not herd
from them since.
you must let me no how you are
geting on with your work and if
your dreses fit well that you had
to mak. and if you have got your
new bonet and how you like it
I have had a vary sore hand ever since
I was there so that I could not use
my sisors I have had to trouble
your aunt Nancy to cut my
work for me we have a great deal
of work before us I think it will
give us a vary hard race to get
through with it by christmas
Emma let me no how you
are geting on with your drawing
I want you to improve as fast as
posible and you and Sally must have

some nice peaces of new music
to play for us christmas
Charlotte when I came home and
looked at your plad dress it look-ed
so short I thought it was useless
to send it and conclude ed to make
you another dark dress as soon as I
can. we are all well give my
love to cis Miller and all the
girls you must let no one see
this [illegible] Living
wright very soon.
my
your affectionate mother
L. C. Ecklin

MORNING SUN TEN
Nov 7

PAID 3

1853

Miss Sallie Ecklin
Macon
Fayette County
Tennessee

June 6th 1854

Ever dear Children your long look for and welcom letter com to hand this morning be as sured that you are freely forgiven for not wrighting under those sircumstances and my anxiety is measureably lull.d tho I am vary sorry to here that you are sad or the least unhappy you no dear that we cant all ways have the sunny side but do daughter try to be prepared for those unpleasant moments that ma chance to fall in your way I had be come so impatient that I wrote to you yesterday but on the reception of yours your Pa bought mine back O daughters do be cherful cant you stimulate ~~and~~ and cheer each other be industrious and cherful and dont be found lacking in any thing that may be your part O children that sweet and cherful face that I antisipate my girls can and will weare at school when they are favoured with health how is Emma let me no

as soon as posable you no I shal
be uneasy until I here from her
it is so dark I mus stop til after
supper. I resume my seat to wright
a litle more we are all well except
Joshua. B. he has ben sick this week
but have miss'd his fever to day
and I hope will soon be able to
return to school he says Charlott
please wright him a letter I will
try to have your dress reddy and if
you dont need yours Emma I
will not make it til you come
so as you may help me as I think
it will be an advantage to you
to have some sewing and we can
fit you better the little ones are saveing
everry thing they can get for you
and Willy says he will feed big sis
little dog til she comes home and
save his basket nite full of plum
give my love to ~~her~~ Sevena and
ask her how the texis trip comes on
your Pa joins me in love to you all
may the lord bless and comfort my
children is the praiare of your Mother

Miss Sallie

I hear through a friend that your Company will start home in the morning. I shall go down myself and would be very much pleased to have you accept a seat with me.

In haste Yours Respectfully

Jun 29' 54

J. P. Thurman

1854

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Correspondence, 1855-1856

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Lagrange Jan 8th 1855

My Devoted Brother.

How shall I ever have it in my power to repay you for your kindness towards me, You have ever been a father to me in sickness and in health also in childhood, and now although I am thrown principally upon my own responsibilities, and so far away you are ready even now to to help me onward in the path of life. O! John I have not language to express the love and gratitude I now owe you may heaven keep and prosper you in all your undertakings is my most earnest prayer. I am so happy to find you willing to my marriage, and feel blessed at having it in my power to wed one whom my dear Brothers and Sister may be proud to own as Brother, I will promise to let you know in time to make every arrangement to come, and must admit I shall feel more

highly honoured at having you to witness it than any body else, he is determined that I shall have a home of my own to go to, as he is opposed to boarding so we will not hurry matters very much: still my arrangements must be [made] you know as the next thing with a lady is to sew sew, it is as Ned says no end to a needle and thread ha ha ha, they plug me enough I tell you. John I tell you truly if you do settle any where out there you are welcome to whatever you may come across of mine that will be usefull in house keeping such as Beds Bureau, or any thing else you choose ~~[illegible]~~ I have, promise me that you will and I'll be happy. I am so sorry to hear Jennetts boy is sick, hope ere this reaches you he will have recovered. she and Neds family were all well when I last heard, Uncle Sam says you had better come on here and let him pick out a lump of gold of a girl for you

and settle you same where in these parts.
what do you think of it? Well I suppose
I must come to the point now, I could
not desire more than you have done
and think the 800$ will wile supply
my every want I am glad I did not
have occasion to sell; for I should
considered this marrying a loosing
business at that rate, ha ha ha, dont you
and as regards Edna I would prefer having
her sent, if you can get some merchant
coming the sathern route to bring her
to weldon Hallifax County and direct
to be sent to Henderson in care of
uncle Sam there would be no difficu
as he is acquainted with the [illegible]
on the rode, and if Mr G— has not sent
the check to Ned, tell him to send it
payable to S.S. Royster Williamsburo Granvill
as it will save the trouble of transfering
it to me from Virginia. Dont you
think that will be best? But if he
has sent it it makes no differencs.

I am glad to here Ben is getting on so well
tell him I shall claim him when I get to
housekeeping make him write to me
give my best love to Aunt Fe and Uncle
I and all the children tell Heaths and Ja
I am in the land of the living and
[illegible] glad to hear from them, I have
just pened a letter to my inquisitive
I wish you were here to read it. I
know you would laugh and say sugar
is sweet and so is candy. good boats,
uncle John as I have a very soar
throat and my fire is getting low
I must stop write as soon as you
receive this in order to let me know
whether you can send E or not
may peace wreathe her charms around
you for ever is the prayer of your fond
Sister Kate

The snow is lying six inches deep on a level, such a winter has not been known Jan 21st 1856, LaGrange since 1832 Dear Brother.. So says the oldest inhabitants

Do you not often wonder what has become of me that I have not answered your dear sweet letter. Well I will tell you. Uncle has a Teacher from Vermont, whom I will introduce to you as Miss Ada Fletcher one of the sweetest and most intelligent young Ladies I ever saw; she has been here one year and will remain another every body loves her that knows her. She is quite pretty and we are quite intimate. By the bye I have showed her your likeness she thinks it the finest face she has seen South, I have given her to you so you must come on and claim your property. Well soon after I received your letters we had an invitation to spend our Xmas in Oxford a beautiful little village 18 miles from Uncle's, we were very happy soon after the invitation came to find our selves on the road, as we had been kept close during the fall on account of the bad weather, we arrived there safely in due time, and was warmly greeted by Mr and Mrs Miller, two old peoples, who are immensely rich with no children, and very fond of young company. We spent a week

delightfully with them, went into town twice shopping and visiting, had a party given us by Mrs R Kingsberry and I do not think I ever spent a colder night than it was. a hundred and twenty persons were invited and amond them was a British Officer Lieut Davis, one of Queen Victorias men he had been visiting some of his relations in the place of course he was considered one of the most distinguished guests out, he was tall handsome and intelectual. We were also complimented by the preasence of three ministers Presb— Meth— Epis—. I was eskorted into tea by the second, and Ada by the Lieut D—. Several of the young Gents said they did not know how to approach us we looked so stiff and dignified, but after standing off and eyeing us for a while, two fellows agreed mutually to come foward and break the ice, they came) and the conversation ran thus. You are from Tennessee Miss? How long have you been in N.Y.? do you play on the Pianno? (No Sir said I) Why not says he, I think music serves so to unbend a person I could not stand the last remark, I was so complet

-ly overcome with laughter that I could not speak and he observing it, commenced backing and bowing until he found himselfe in the oppo-site corner of the room where he threw himselfe into a chair and panted like he had been hard at work Ha! ha! ha! I never laughed so much in all my life, we had a delightful time, We came home saturday after Xmas, expecting to go to Warrenton [illegible] Fletcher has relations there [illegible] all night saturday and sunday [illegible] so we left monday and spent two weeks which takes us to the present time, we had a much more improving visit to warren than oxford for his relations are very intelligent and nice people the young men had their sleighs out of course to give all the ladies a ride I believe I have told you all the news of any interest, I have not heard from Nella in five months that is I have not had a letter from her, they all are growing very negligent I don't know what to make of it. I will not complain, perhapse they are very busy. has Ben started to school? Oh! how I do wish [I] could see you all once more, I will not

office very soon and tell me all the news

it is sad though, since you have made me so happy by not going to Texas, I do believe it would have killed me, you donot know how many tears I have shed for you, and when I would sleep I would dream of seeing you struggling for life in the Gulf, or wel-tering in your own blood, from the savage blows, you may think me simple but I [illegible] help it. You wish to [illegible] [illegible] my engagement. The Dr has paid [illegible] a visit since I received your letter, and he agreed to wait for me as long as I wished it, so we have not set any time, and I will not until he gets a place fixed up for me. Dear John I wish you would send me my checks as soon as the money can be collected for I shall need [illegible] must inform Uncle Mar, I cannot write to him I donot know what to say, and in regard to the things at Dr's you are welcome to the use of every thing, and if you will except the carpet and bed stead one feather bed and a straw bed a pair of pillows, and Mama's chair I would like to present them to you, I will write to Heath and tell her all about them my paper has given out so I must bid you ~~adieu~~ fondly Kate

Leap Year. April 1st | 56

Mr Thurman

Acquainted as I am with the noble qualities which you are in possession of; and having felt the influence of the powerful intellect, that flashes through your soul speaking eyes, I feel that I am excusable, in offering to your consideration the following proposal. If the gifted & fascinating Mr Thurman will forsake the rough road of single life which he has previously traveled and unite with one, in unison to his own enlightened mind she who greets him now will hereafter think of him as one whom the laws of this allow her to "love, cherish and Obey" "I love thee and I feel

That on the fountain of my heart a seal

Is set to keep its waters pure and fresh

For thee"

Should this proposal meet with your approbation I shall be but too happy

as your wedded wife, to make life's pathway bright and beautiful to thee

The bitter cup which we all have to drink of will I temper with consolation.

And when cares press heavily upon thee, they shall be lightened by words of

love from a heart that feels more for thy happiness than its own.

But it is useless to ~~write~~ write more, words are but empty sounds

actions speak the most

Your answer will not be expected until you visit

[illegible], which time I hope is not far distant, an interview will then be

sought, by you of course, you can tell the Lady by looking straight in

to her eyes, which can deny nothing

~~until that~~ [redacted] Adieu

"Leap Year"

P.S. I place you on your honor as a gentleman not to show this letter or speak

of it until you see the writer I hope you will grant ~~the~~ request not

to show it

Woodland Cottage.
April 3rd 1856 –

Mr Thurman,

Little did I suspect that I had been the cause of trouble! And is it so? or do my eyes deceive me? The words of your letter, like so many thunderbolts piercing my brains are before me – & I am called upon to give an explanation of past demeanor.

I have, in my life, accomplished tasks that to me, seemed hard; but how to vindicate myself of wrongs innocently done or how to explain conduct for which I have felt no remorse of conscience; are things, that I consider difficult indeed. I confess I had hoped to have given you a more cordial greeting on the evening alluded to, in your letter; but when you came Emma was suffering, oh so intensely, with toothache.

& I had applied myself to the task, of doing everything in my power, to alleviate, if possible, her sufferings: & when at last I found my efforts had not proved unavailing, I was truly glad & promised myself a pleasant evening. But Ere I had time to indulge the anticipation company arrived some of whom were strangers to me. This altered the circumstances, so that the evening passed off very differently from what I had expected.

Remember, Mr Thurman, if my conduct has caused you to regret or desire to take back the declaration you made to me, I am not at all disposed to censure you. I shall not think any the less of you for that.

Or if you were trifling with my feelings, oh! horrible thought! I could not believe it then for your very heart's thoughts seemed to speak & your words more like the music of a dream than reality, soft, Lutelike, were poured into my unsuspecting heart. If there be any foundation

for such fears, for Heaven's sake retract, while it is not yet too late. And then may I exclaim in the language of a favorite Poet—

"Who that midst a desert's heat
Sees the waters fade away,
Would not rather die than meet
Streams again, as false as they."

Before I close an earnest request, one which I feel assured your respect for me will cause you to grant. Burn this immediately, or return it to me.

Very respectfully.

Sallie Ecklin

1856

(10)

1856

Elm wood 8th Septbr

My Dear John

This moment read yours of 4th and while I rejoice at the close up of your matters I regret that it will be almost impossible for me to see you and Sallie joined together in holy wedlock, happiness now must be the aim of you both, and to begin is half the battle, as your grand Pa, told me when I left him to be sure and pull at the same end of the rope of my husband, and all would be right.

I feel that I have neglected you in not writing, but we have had continued sickness ever since I saw you in

Somerville, while the last 10 days I have had no rest and after nursing all the Children except Will. I had to go to bed with a chill last saturday, but now well.

Suppose Kate & Jimmie will not come out, as you said nothing about it - we will leave home Thursday to reach Forest Hill friday, stay till saturday morning - return right home, monday being Col Chester's Court - and as soon after as possible we expect to go to Shelby, when I hope, to see you & my new niece as happy as larks in your log cabbin.

Jimmie says tell Miss Sallie never mind for not telling her, but she knew it last Christmas. All send love and a thousand congratulations.

Most Affectly yr Aunt Jane,

(2)

ely of sleanes for home, Sandy
Adieu
(Kate) La Grange Oct 4th 1856

Dear John,

Write soon You will find enclosed, your long looked for wedding shirt, which has come (I suppose) a day after the feast but you must take the will for the deed, for I tried in every way to send it to you except by mail, and having tried that experiment in attempting to send a small bundle to Virginia, and having it lost I was affraid to try it again. You must write me how it fits and where the fault is, if there is any, for me made it entirely by guess. The sleanes are entirely new

you will find that they are
to be worn with chain buttons
in the upper holes. I wish
very much I had a pair to
put in for you, but living
out in the country as we do
it is hard to find any thing
nice, If you have an idea of
sending my dear friend a
preasant, please do so as
soon as you can, for her
session will soon be out
and then she will leave me
and great will be that trial
for I have never had so
dear a friend in all my
life, she has given me a full
course of painting lessons,
besides 10 months music on
the Piano and will not

permit me to pay her a cent
whenever I have offered her
pay she seemed grieved and
would say, Oh! Kate your
tenderness has repaid me for
all of my trouble, I cannot
innumerate the presents she
has made me, and I like to
forgot to mention that she
has taught me to make Wax
Flowers and fruits and Leather
Flowers for frames, I have
just completed a handsome
one for the Fair in R[illegible] which
I put one of my handsomest
fruit pieces the painting will
measure 2 feet 6 inches one
way and 2 feet the other
every body says it could
not be surpassed.

I told her that you intended to send her a present, and she said present my respects to Mr P— and tell him that I will give to receive, If you conclude to send a piece of Jewelry please send it in an empty Daguerreotype case and direct it to Miss Ada Fletcher Williams Box she has only six weeks to be here from to day. Well I suppose you are snugly fixed at home with dear Sallie by your side I could almost envy you the happiness you now enjoy. I expect you begin to feel something like you use to when we were all together. Kiss the dear creature for her fond sister and may heaven bless you both and make you a blessing is my fond prayer. I received a letter from Kella yesterday all were well and she will write soon. Do you expect to go to Virginia as soon

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Correspondence, undated (pre-war)

Folder 6 of 23

Home Sat P. M.

Mr Thurgman,
Esteemed Sir,
Mr Miller says to you that on Tuesday next he will call on you at Dr Chambers to ascertain if you have a Man or Boy to suit him for hire the remainder of this year.

Love to my Jennie and Miss Kate.

Very respectfully Yrs
C. A. P. Miller

Mexico № 1422

Mr Jno. Duff Schermerhorn
Present

Fair Mount – March 25th

Miss Sallie

Under any other circumstances this might be considered an unwarrantable liberty. And would and may be treated for aught I know with sneering contempt & silence. Yet for all this my feelings are such as to prompt me no matter what be the result. To do: openly and honestly what I esteem to be a duty to myself. & strict propriety under the circumstances. That I should write thus may doubtless appear strange and mysterious to you, not being able at once to define the cause, In fact we are too apt to consider things in the State in which we find them, without sufficiently adverting to the causes by which they have been produced & may be sustained. — Will you consider well & when I explain see if all the feelings of your honest nature will not say that I have cause to be sadly grieved. —

"Mark, the Inst. of my Visit before the (last) to be presumed of course — made to you exclusively. Did you not deny me even the pleasure of your — presence except when shallow — courtesy would prompt & almost force the little respect. 'Sad. Sad.' poison to the Heart. 'Frost' to the bud & blight to the Blossom so much will poor human Nature bear then sinks to certain ruin. — — —
And again whilst suffering under such agony as this, almost persuaded to say farewell forever, I obtained what I had long sought a private interview & what did follow, Why some subtile Spirit did, seem through all the veins, Hope seemed to move on the evening winds & joy out shone the Sun. And in declination firm with soft music as it were from the Poets Lyre, did tell me Tale of (fervid) Love, Then at your own — solicitation I promised to see you this evening, True to my promise I came

And O how fondly did I hope to grasp the hand & meet a smile though the lips might teach me at a word that you spurned all my love. Cast it by as idle & laughed at my calamity. I ask you now in view of every thing in connection if such would not appear reasonable. But ah did I act it — No. No. Language would fail me to describe my feelings, "never my Sallie in the whole history of my life have I been so perfectly unnerved as when I met you this evening. I can but exclaim did man ever suffer such unmixed misery. — O that I were on some desert coast where where howling tempests & the lashing tides would stun me into deep & senseless quiet — Here rocky walls scatter these Brains or dull them.

I ask you my Sallie what am I to be taught by your actions? is it that I can never have your love, if so it's a lesson that will effect me whole after life and teach it — I pray you how to make me die

For with it would come the consciousness that thou couldst never be mine & when this this shall be life will lose all its Charms for me, It will be a burden a something I alone not & Death a sweet boon.

The case may be as I see it. I know not. But still I could kiss [illegible] that has caused me to [illegible] & bow and worship the Idol that has crushed all my hopes and weep over the lamentable circumstance were it manly to weep. In conclusion may I not ask of you as a friend if no more to write and explain this worst of all mystery? immediate attention to the above is what will ever command friendship

Of yo: N Truly

J. P. Thinonny

Excuse haste

Macon Institute.

Dearest friend.

Did we think a week ago to day when we were seated around the same fire-side that we would be separated so soon and under such painful circumstances? Time is uncertain, we know not to-day what to-morrow bringeth. But indeed I sympathise with you, and sincerely hope that your dear Parent will ere long be restored to health. And the time soon arrive when you will return, for there is not a day that passes but what I hear some one expressing themselves as anxious to see you or hear from your Ma.

Mrs. M. received your letter by yesterdays mail, we were glad to hear that your Ma was better.

Sallie, I have sad news for you Bettie Norman will quit school in a

week or two. The negroes that were hired to defray her school expenses have run off, it is supposed to the state they came from. But if they are found soon she will continue at school. Sallie Kirby will go home as soon as the weather permits, as her cousin came home with her Ma from Nasville. But she will return in a week or two.
Poka left us yesterday. But I hope she will persuade her Father out of the notion of stoping her from school as backward as she is in her education. It would be a great eror to stop her now.

Oh! you know that cousin we we were speaking of sunday evening that was expected the latter part of the week? Well, he arrived last evening and with him, two of his friends. I guess you never saw any one so badly disappointed as those teachers. When they first intered the room they supposed

Arretta to be some Spaniard.

They found me out first, not being as much disguised as the others. But they enjoyed it finely as well as ourselves. Well, as Miss Moore says, I have come to a hault and must close. A kiss forever for Ema and the other children. My love to your Parents. All the girls join me in love to you. I remain your

true friend
Sallie M.

P.S. Bettie N. and Lou G. present their kindest regards and compliments to you and Emma. And wish the time to soon arive when they can see you face to face.

Dr. Menderson's Sister

Dear Sallie,

We feel truly grateful to the Great Physician that he sees fit to restore to her wonted and highly responsible station your beloved and gentle Mother – You girls will prize her more highly than ever – And perhaps never will you be prepared to appreciate fully while in possession of her the full extent of the obligations resting upon daughters of such Mothers as Heaven has bestowed upon you. – I feel assured you will try to fill well yr. sphere of action and in the attempt you will be blessed for God has vouchsafed to promise a blessing to such as honor & obey their parents. – +

Mr Miller joins me in love to all & sincere wishes for yr. Ma's speedy restoration – he thinks it doubtful about his getting out as he is unusually pressed for time – so numerous are the demands upon him. – he & Lucius brought Dora home on Friday She is much improved in strength & somewhat so in flesh – she had her "Adventures" up a few minutes after getting in to see how far Sallie was in advance she is reading with zeal & writing exercises – seems very happy & intent on doing well. She sends love to Emma & thee – I hope you may soon be restor[illegible] Thine

Yesterday brought a letter from Nannie Ross to A. Bryant & one to me. She has decided to take a respite of some months. – Thursday's mail brought to me an Ep. from Mr Wm Powel, who was just embarking for N. Orleans or Texas – with Mr Wm Steffe & lady – for a long stay; – Come as soon as possible. "Farewell" –

Dr Miller joins me in love to all & sincere wishes for yr. Ma's speedy restoration — he thinks it doubtful about his getting out as he is unusually pressed for time — so numerous are the demands upon him. — he & Lucius brought Dora home on Friday. She is much improved in strength & somewhat so in flesh — She had her "Adventures" up a few minutes after getting in to see How far Sallie was in advance. She is reading with zeal & writing Exercises — seems very happy & intent on doing well. She sends love to Emma & thee — I hope you may soon be restored [illegible]

Yesterday brought a letter from Sammie. [illegible] & one to me. [illegible] has decided to take a [illegible] months. — Thursday [illegible] an [illegible] from Mr. [illegible] who [illegible] [illegible] Orleans or [illegible] with Mr. [illegible] & lady for a long stay." [illegible]

Dear Sallie,

We feel truly grateful to the Great Physician that he sees fit to restore to her wonted and highly responsible station your beloved and gentle Mother — You girls will prize her more highly than ever — And perhaps never will you be prepared to appreciate fully while in possession of her the full extent of the obligations resting upon daughters of such Mothers as Heaven has bestowed upon you. — I feel assured you will try to fill well yr sphere of action and in the attempt you will be blessed for God has vouchsafed to promise a blessing to such as honor & obey their parents. — +

Raleigh
Wednesday Eve -

My dear Sallie

I have just finished a long letter to a very dear Arkansas friend and thought I would write you a wee note on this wee sheet of paper -
Do not imagine for a moment dear Sallie that I have neglected answering your very kind letter from the will to do it no! my time is not my own - and I assure you the greater part of it is devoted to school duties - which leaves but a meager share to divide among my friends -
Barba has been saying - for several days "Bettie when will you find time to answer Sallie's letter"? -- I always acknowledge letter writing to be very pleasant - but I would so much prefer having your dear self with us this evening - when I say us, I mean Annie and I; for we are almost inseparable - I am tempted to say it is only pleasant! to communicate to friends when there is no other alternative -

We have the nicest little room, and altogether the nicest fire imaginable - and if you was just possessed of a pair of wings and would be kind enough to waft yourself over here - we would entertain you so lovingly - and treat you to a nice Brandy Stew - for you must know we are suffering from sever colds - Annie has a great deal of curiosity to see you she has heard Mr Wayne - why Sallie what makes you blush do know him? and Barbie and I speak of of you often - she says she makes it a rule to send her love to all my friends - so you may claim a share -

I am glad there are hearts around Macon that still remember "Bettie Fisher" I had thought, perhaps the name was forgotten remembered only as a song of bye gone days - I shall long remember Macon and Macon friends - for they are bound to me by no common tie - I often wish to be there then comes the thought - a great change has taken place since I was there! would that change be pleasant? - I think shall try soon and see if it be pleasant -

You have had quite a lengthy sojourn in Macon - I presume it feels like home to you - I am glad the school is getting

on so nicely - Mrs Mil[illegible] well pleased
with her teachers - And you are studying
Latin? How do you like it? - I commenced
it, but found I could not think of devoting
the time to it, it would require without
a teacher, though I was delighted with
it! I am glad you still like literary
pursuits - for in them alone, is true
enjoyment found - I think sometimes
suppose I was in such an <u>ones</u> place
would I be content? could I live thus?
one that devotes all time to fashionable
visiting, and frivolous pleasures - I feel
that I could not - tis <u>then</u> I am confident
the course I am pursuing is for the
best - though I sometimes weary, of being
so closely confined - Barbra is getting on
very nicely and often speaks of you -
Many thanks Callie, for you kind
invitation to visit Morning Sun
in the Christmas! but I am sorry

to say I ~~cannot~~ avail myself of it - having previously promised Maria a part of my time - and the other part I must spend at home - Neverthe-less - I will be with you some time in spirit if not in person - And Mag Niel has really deserted the single state! Hurrah! for Mag! whose time next Sallie? - the Macon girls are thinning out or, at least, becoming "Madams" - You must accept this wee letter this time dear Sallie with the promise of a longer next time - and as it is late, and Annie tells me the stew is waiting I must bid you Good night

pleasant dreams -

Bettie Fisher

P.S. A pleasant Christmas Write soon

Page(s)

Missing

a number of disappointed people for they
expected to hear something very superior
from Mr [illegible] while he used them
well with the spirit. Kate sends her love
to you and says she received your letter
a few days ago and intends answering soon
sends a immense deal of love to Ben
and says she is so delighted to hear
the good manner in which he has conducted
himself since our departure both at school
and home, and even this moment shedding
tears of joy over him. Well I must tell you
something about the crops they are very
bad particularly in this neighborhood.
Ned has finished reaping wheat and
suffered greatly with the spirits on
account of its indifference though he
is reconciled now to this wheat crop
at least but oh! how he does suffer
when called to view his corn fairly
[illegible] by the rays of the burning sun

for there has not been rain enough to moisten the ground in the longest time I am sorry the heir s the Tennessee Crops are suffering for want of rain as well as they are here though we can but be resigned as it is the will of God who knoweth all things. Nex sends love to you and says you must come and see him and I also sorry, very, sorry you cannot come on next Summer for I certainly want to see you badly. How are all the relations give love to all and tell them I want to see them very badly now that its vacation as that was any time to see them. When did you see old Dr Berry tell me when you write? for I have not heard from him since I came on. Give me the news of the M. Pon examination and also the commencement. I was surprised to hear Will Dike was married for I had not heard a word from him before since he was so very frequent visitor at our

house. You have been down to stay some time with Charlie Rose how badly I want to see him, Sister A— sends love to you and Beverly and Cousin Virginia says you must come on here and make a visit, (I say what a ridiculous message) Ed. has another like you and thinks of calling him after papa. Cousin Annie Peake sends love to you and a kiss to Beverly. Give my love to him also and a kiss, tell him I have a book for him and intend sending it to him by the first opportunity and that he must send me some messages sometimes that I have not had one word from him since coming to Virginia. Tell Cousin Ruth I have have a letter from her and one from Sallie Ecklin and intends answering very soon. And as I am summoned to the parlor must close write soon and follow my example in

the point of lengthy letters. How is our little Warnsbury? Ima Church coming on and what is it I would not give to hear a sermon from Mrs Gray? tell Cousin Billie I want Sister to (his going to Texas) And now am compelled to close with the wish that peace and happiness may be thine through life. Your truly devoted

Sister Nettie

one more abreviation for my name

Po

I have not [illegible] my letter off although it was finished last night and so [illegible] fills its [illegible] the five lines in telling you [illegible] family are well and three of the children are [illegible] just before me now on their [illegible] fast to sleep, Kate is up [illegible] Virginia's bandage around [illegible] which [illegible] and I am [illegible] Willie Rodgers and I am in my room just in the act of making ready to retire. Good [illegible] Nettie

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Correspondence, 1861

Folder 7 of 23

Columbus, Ky
Jan 30th 61

Dear Sister

As Mr. Galaway is going to leave here today I will drop you & John a line or two informing you of my good health light heart & dont care feeling. We are now happing on the joyfulness we will have next spring when we are released two month & a half will soon pass off. And no furloughs are wanted as our officers are so contrary we can also be contrary they are now trying coertion just what we are fighting against. Dont they not know it such but what else list? They have issued orders not to grant a furlough unless a poor fool will take the bounty the fifthful sum of 50$ and then accept a furlough for 30 days. That's not my style I cant be bought, I had rather they would pay me for the six months service for which I have not seen a dime, not on the square. And when my Patriotism prompts me I will come again & let the 50$ go. Rumors now Boreguard is coming to take old Grannie Polk's place. Chris sends his love to John & Lacy. Kiss the Children for us both. The yanks have whipped Zolicoffer but you must know that they are whipped when ever the Bloody 4th gets after them. we went out on a scout about a week ago, only saw where the camp

had been, They always leave when They hear of
our approach excuse haste, I am looking for
the articles, send them as soon as you can
Young is doing very well. I have had no trouble
with him, Tell John there are thousands
whose prerequisites are involved for which there is
but two remedies, death or money for with tell
them for we want them to fight.

Your Brother

B. F. Thomson

1861

Kiss all the gals for tell them I love them still

"Hickman Ky

Sep 6th 1861

Dear Brother,

After arriving at Madrid on saturday last in company with several of my friends of the same Reg. & several of 13th, I called on General Pillow to Know what we must do, fearing all the time that we would have to march. But we soon learned that the latest order was for them all to come back & we must stretch a tent at Madrid & wait for them, So we did & joined our respective companies at Madrid on tuesday last, Then we were carried on board the H. R. W. Hill, which landed us at the above mentioned place about twelve oclock at night spreading out our blankets, we snoozed untill morning. Rising with the sun

the brilliancy of which caused the waves on the River to appear almost like Silver ~~Lava~~. A warm cup of Coffee was prepared with which we eat a cold biscuit. About 10 oclock, the General in command received a dispatch from Columbus, that two Gun Boats had passed there. & we must keep a look out. What could we expect; But that we must have a little fun, three or four Regiments, Jacksons Artilery & the Southern Guards, the Cavalry were serving as picketts & scouts, while we the Infantry were formed in a line of Battle waiting patiently to give them, what Paddy gave the drum. Pretty soon two little Boats came in sight. we have a Gun Boat with two Cannons one at each end. Our little Boat swelled & puffed furiously in the middle of the River. Rather appearing as if she

would rather advance than retreat. The Enemy halted their Boats in a bout 3 Miles of us. We getting tired waiting on them — fired one shot from our Boat — They returning the compliment, Cannon The Southern Guards, to draw out "Long Tom" as they call their 42 pounder. A pretty Sharp firing was kept up. We shot over them nearly every time, they never reached us. Thus ended the Battle of Hickman, Ky. The health of the Campins is generally good. All are anxious to fight. I saw Will & Sam Chester yesterday both are well, Josh was a wagon while marching through Mo. The Boys are satisfied with Mo have got enough of that state & they say over that Ky suits them. Fohidge & Bob Hays are well. Bob was very sorry to hear

that Miss Greene had a bad tooth. I expect to attend church in Columbus next Sunday. I think our next move will be to that place. Tell Dick Royston to come on or he will miss the fun. For we will [illegible] not surprise me at any day to be engaged some where near Columbus. My love to all my relatives, sweet heart & friends. Tell them I have let in for good & cannot see them any more until the war is ended. With much love & a light heart I remain Yours truly,

1 heart,

B. L. Thurman

Write soon. But I don't know where you must direct your letters but we may remain here some time. Love Boys, Ben

Besides 30 fires that were made with the company that I could not tell what damage it done

Post

Confederate Victory
Columbus Ky
Oct 8th/61

My Dear Sister

I commence this without knowing whether I can make a letter of it or not as we are ex-pecting another attack every minute. We had a glorious victory yes-terday though I guess you have heard of it before this. We lost two men killed in our company George Hall.

and Billie Dunlap are
among the dead of our
Regiment from our Co.
Capt Pitman. Edd Yates &
Joe Locke were slightly
wounded. Our Cousin
Billie Edwards is re-
-ported Mortally wounded
John E. is a prisoner
now in the hands
of the enemy. several
of our Co we taken
prisoners but we got
the last one of them
back. Their fire was
very heavy on our
Regt for about one
hour & a half. there were
seven Regts of the enemy
against 2 of ours du-
-ring that time we had

also 3 pieces of flying
Artilery which ~~they~~ they
captured from us and
turned on us and
repulsed us to the
river's edge where
we Rallied received
reinforcements in the
form of Genl Sheatha
Lo commands us
to follow him which
we did and flanked
them shot down two
or three hundred and
took a great many
prisoners. And run the
balance of them
about four miles on
board their own boats
where we killed several
more of them, the

1861

loss of our Regt was
not less than seventy
five Killed & wounded
& missing close they
are coming Down
on us again your
Brother J B Ecklin

We did not have a fight
this morning as I expected
Bev is safe he was not
in the engagement you
can also inform miss
Linnie that Mr Crews was
unhurt. Yes there is
a gun in the C.S.A. just
as fine a minnie Rifle
as ever was in any
service with the name
Helen on it. That gun
was used by expert hands
I saw one union Rascal
fall from a fire from her

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JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Correspondence, 1862: March

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Memphis March 17th 1862

My dear Wife,

"I came down just in time to get a transport we will take this Evening at 3 oclock Several of our Company will accompany me the rest belong to the same Regiment

I hope by this you have gotten all your little matters fixed to your liking, and this may find you snug and happy as is possible for a Soldiers Wife to be. Sillie you must be reconciled to your fate It is the lot of many to meet the same Sacrifice and in the pursuit of any thing we behold dear as a free people, It becomes the duty of every Patriot to make any Sacrifice that our country demands. The news came here that the 11 Reg was cut to pieces and the whole taken, But I am satisfied from authentic source that they are all safe as yet, (It is reported we are falling back from Humbolt. When will our Army stop falling back It really looks like we are determined to whip ourselves without a Battle) I mean you may write to me at Huntsville if we move I will inform you immediately Mat Donaldson is here and will travel

You this I enclose you ten dollars to pay your expenses until Mr Oates can furnish you some, give him a receipt for all moneys he may pay you. I do the best for the comfort and safety of all that concerns me. I cant advise, as you will have to act from the circumstances that surround you. Which I am affraid will be very trying. Kiss my dear sweet Children and dont let them forget Pa. Take good care of Rigdon. The future of my family is centered in him, remember affectionately your Pa's family, & Tell Reuben Since I have been here I find, it will be next to impossible for him to get a transfer after he gets in, to his regiment. By all means to submit it to his company and have his name taken off of the list they cant expose him under the circumstances. Write soon, remember every impulse of my heart is toward my dear wife & little ones. May God bless is the prayer of

Your affectionate Husband

Burnsville March 26th 62

My Dear Wife:

This morning finds me at the above place. 16 miles from Corinth on the M&C R.R. after we left Memphis we were ordered to stop here and wait for our Regiment to come through from Huntsville. They arrived last Sunday, and we had to do a hard days work fixing up our camp &c &c. The boys say they never know when Sunday comes, so far, I have been able to keep the day of the week & month. We were ordered to detail one hundred men yesterday from the Regiment for a Scout. I am of the number we advanced as near

the Tenn. River as we could go from the water, expecting every moment to engage the Enemy's Pickets. as we were informed they had landed a force the day before on this side the River which has proved to be a mistake. Though we could hear the drums very distinctly. We arrived at Corinth a few days before we came up here. I took dinner with Josh in his camp 3 miles from Corinth on the Mobile & O. R. Bro's Reg. came in the day before I left. all the Boys are well & in fine spirits. We have a large force here & at Corinth they issue I am told 70.000 rations for this division of the Army. We are the Right wing, Josh & Bro's Regiments are on the extreme left. I saw

Col. Young This morning his reg-
-ment will be stationed at Corinth for the
present. I haint heard from Prest
If he delays we will not be able
to get our own Company. I am very
much pleased the Comp- and have
made up a Mess of respectable Gentlemen
which adds a good deal to this hard
life, (That of a Soldier), I am resolved
Sallie to discharge my duty as a
Gentleman private for my term
of Service, And then if Peace but
Settles on our lovely Country I
will spend the balance of my
days in the Bosom of my dear little
family, I seek no higher honour nor
sweeter boon, to say that I am
Satisfied (Sallie) I could not for
you know what I disprove a duty

I am my Country. an endorsement of my principles as a freeman. (I can't send me any thing with any certainty of my getting it. all are known to where we are to day. I am satisfied we won't be in there and a very short time, for I don't think that there is the slightest prospect for a fight, & Old Forrest will carry this thing where that thing is to be done sure, You can write to me here. if we move the letters will follow the Reg: write to Jim & Kate I don't have time & can't get paper up here, This is the poorest country in the world. (Pine Hills) Kiss the Children for me & tell (Net & Bet) not to forget Pa. Thom (?) Mr Ryder came on, Thom I would like to handle the rascal a little, give my love to all yours & remember me to relatives & friends. — And may God bless you my dear sweet wife — is the Prayer of your affectionate Husband

Corinth, Miss.
Mch 30th. 1862

Dear Sister,

Yrs of the 21st I had the very great pleasure of receiving several days ago. But owing to the confusion &c in Camp, I have not been able to reply until now. I met John at Corinth very unexpectedly. he was looking quite Soldier-like. I have hoped all along that he might stay at home. But it seems that every one is needed. Though I think it will not be long before we all will go home & enjoy a little time. For the Yank's have come as far as they can!! A little farther South & it will be impossible for them to fight. Likely for they will be shot from every door & window. They will never attack us here either for they know full well we will whip, for we have a very large force. Now as for their taking Island 10

I am certain they never will for there
is provisions enough there to last three
who are there, 3 months, and Madrid Bend
opposite the Island (while the Miss River is
at this stage) is entirely surrounded by
water & the Lake which lies back of
the Bend is seven miles wide & only one
place that a bridge can be built - Crossing
on rafts from the opposite shore is their
only chance. And if our men dont kill
them all when they try that - They ought to
be hung themselves. I think now that the
Enemy are congregating in large numbers
at or near Paris. in order to draw us off
so as to divide our forces as much as pos-
sible. I wish they would meet us here for
I am anxious to be in a big Battle, I dont
like these little skirmishes. So indeed I
have not re-enlisted, I shall wait quite patiently
until my time is out, when there is but
two situated as John & I !! its right that
we should arrange our "fighting" so as
to let one or the other be at home occasionally

Reas as its so fashionable for young men to look to their personal interest. Shall look to mind next summer. And when I go in, again, Same Horseback, & attached to an Independant Company. I'll give reasons for that when I see you.

Sis. I have taxed you, too much with my war talk, at Present my compliments to yr Pa's Family. Kiss the Girls. & let them press the delicate folds of their wide bolls to their ruby lips. which (Roilly's) have been bathed in the essence of a Patriots, lovely, Kisses to Kit. Bert, & old mistress. Compliments to Eliza & Jane & tell them I will bring a nice white shirt above all things when I come, the 14th of May, the seed & have been sowed ready. Chas says tell Miss. Charl. he lost the last sprig or leaf when the Yankes got after him, at Madrid. He sends compliments to all.

Most truly yr affectionate Boy

Address yr letter as, before,

Jas

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JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Correspondence, 1862: April

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[illegible] now
[illegible] delayed [illegible] evening
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] time
[illegible]
[illegible] hundred [illegible]
[illegible] scouting [illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible]
not one as yet have we seen.
Night before last we were called
& ordered to prepare rations for
24 hours, for the news that the
enemy were marching on [illegible] from
Eastport on the river, the early

Texas. And our Regiment of some 700 men
men on the line of March for the [illegible]
named [illegible]. When the Regiment [illegible]
And a whole [illegible] — a Grand Spectacle —
is presented here, Some Marching & Sinking
to the Death of a Patriot — Beautiful
Residences rent & torn by the Shells &
Balls from the Enemy's Gun Boats
Beautiful Gardens & fields left to
go to ruin in the hands of the —
Invader comes (Our Country) acquainted
to [illegible] by our fathers. Who is that would, not
rather die than submit. (He that would
as Shakespeare says, is man enough to crawl
upon a wall; or fawn like a dog
to lick his master's feet. The only
Enemy they seen in this own fluttering
little Tennessean & There a dog or a cat
left perfectly bare of a living soul,

till [illegible] Jumping on Thunder bones
in [illegible] up our Homes [illegible] But never —
[illegible] while I [illegible] taste. When I [illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible] Sallie, I think of you & my
own little Children, & my hand involun-
tarily will unsheath my sabre or spring
the trigger of my trusty Gun. ——
To avenge the insults the rights in them
& bring my darling ones to shame,
& now my arm hope to the conflict — your
sweet letter, I read it over & over —
again catching the inspiration & honest —
devotion from a heart all my —
own, which thank God I have had
to prove sincere, & pray to him —
that controls the destiny of all, it
may be my happy lot to return to you —
unharmed, bearing in one hand the olive —
branch of Peace, & waving triumphantly

in one [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Flag of the
South [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]
here, [illegible] from them to [illegible] City
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] me [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
B. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] long, [illegible] they will
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible], Kiss the dear Children, direct your
letters to [illegible] & they will follow
the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]. Kiss the Children a Thousand
times for me & [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
your Pa & Carl, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] the same [illegible] (B. Mc)

[illegible] 7th 18[illegible]

My [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] you

[illegible]

with the [illegible] attacking the enemy

upon the [illegible] which was done in

[illegible] on Sunday [illegible] battle —

[illegible] out one moment

with a [illegible] 5 or 8 shells

[illegible] 5 or 6 miles

Square [illegible] them [illegible] along

front [illegible] the Battle at night

[illegible] of the Line ([illegible]

& many [illegible] of the Column Shot

a [illegible] dead in his tracks [illegible] 5 or 6 steps

of them Gun Boat Covered by the Banks

on them [illegible] & captured

a great many prisoners & other prises

I cant give you the full particulars

as hurridly as I am compelled to write

We charged them late Sunday evening —

& without firing a Gun. our whole Comma

-ed them down their arms & met Col
Forrest with a white flag) The fight
on Monday was desperate, & after fighting
them until our forces perfectly broke
but we retired in good order our re-
inforcements having failed to reach us
in time to secure the grounds we had
taken. They left the field at the same
time & stopped on the other side
[illegible], getting reinforcements they
reoccupied the same & advanced with
cavalry & Infantry on our retreating
army. Our Cavalry covered from Corinth they
[illegible] a part taking a road toward
this place commanded by Col Forrest he met
the enemy's advanced guard & put
them all to flight, lost a great many.
*Tom Robins was in that fight & acted
very gallantly. Our advance was stationed
at the same time we drew up in
line commanded by our Lieut-Col. & waited until
night for an attack & then came to this
place about 5 or 6 miles distant. When
I came in we rode, met them again in

* The man who gave Mama the diamond ring as a wedding present. — H.

Berta Leas it.

very few days. Col. H— was slightly
wounded [illegible]. Our loss in killed
in all the fight was some 10 or 15 — from
the Reg. the most which was from McDonalds
Company being all ways in advance.. There
is some 15 of our camp enjoying the most of which
it is thought will get in camp. to day —
I cant hear any thing from Bro. Jack or
dick Royster. We are not permitted to
leave our arms a moment; my horse
was unsaddled last night the first time
for 2 days & nights, and all that time
without feed for horse or myself — (In the
rain all night — & around the fight
all the day, I stand it better than I thought
I could, Tony Lake is among the killed
Tommy [illegible] stripped of him by [illegible]
any particular, all the men from
our neighborhood in this Company are
safe & well, we are bound to have
more hot work here or in striking
distance very soon. I havent had but
one letter from you, we are moving
so often it is impossible for the

mail to such as sympathy. I hope
we will have a mail this evening. —
I am without a scratch which would
seem all most a miracle passing
through as hot a fire I did for 2 days & one
night. we held the enemys camp all
night amidst a rain of Shell from the
Gun Boats, which is worse than the
battle field, I thank god that it is
as it is, with me that I am still
spared to give what aid I can in
freeing my country & avenging the wrongs
that has inflicted on us by a merciless
foe, You must try & do the best you
can, I am engaged here with my
duties that have to be performed which
are my duty. I dont know how to
advise you, as there is nothing what-
ever but our fate. May the Lord bless
and protect you and return me safe
in peace to our family. my love to all
if I can I will try & see Ben & Josh
I could not get permission yesterday or to day
it 12 miles from here to Corinth. — Your Affectionate
In great haste Husband

(11)

Corinth April 15th 1862

My Dear Wife

This pleasant Spring day finds me in Camp, with a desire above every other to hold a sweet converse with my dear devoted Wife, I was grieved to find up to the 5th Inst that you had not heard from me. And that God in His wisdom & goodness had spared me among the living, I sometimes in retrospecting the past wonder and can but ask the question why was I permitted to pass for two long days, & as many nights under a rain of lead, giving battle to the Enemy upon the most desperately contested grounds, uttering in the deafening roar of Cannon & musketry the clash of steel, our rights as freemen

and tracing in lines of blood at every step that the right we assert we dare maintain. It is that God is our all; blessed be the name of the Lord!! If I could see you sitter I am sure I could entertain you you with the incidents of the 6 & 7th. I was in it all and saw it all from first to last and will say for myself that my wife & children need never be put to the blush for my acts upon the field. I cant give detail as it would be too much in it; I camped near Rusume and took dinner with him Saturday and Sunday. his company seemd to be nearly all sick or or complaining. Our Regiment

is in the same condition caused
from exposure. I am the only
one of my mess of 10 that has been
fit for duty since the battle. I
am astonished at myself haven't
even had a cold nor the slightest
trouble with my back, some thing
I very much feared. O how I
sympathise with with my old Uncle &
Aunt. The loss of such a child as
he is a great loss indeed, and that
they should be denyed the satisfaction
of having his body, is awful. I
never heard from any of my friends
or relatives in the battle until
Tuesday night never saw any one
I knew during the last to leave
the field. If I could have heard
from back Monday think it very

likely I might have obtained his body.
The want of attention to our
wounded & dead on the field
is heart-rending; they are treated
as a worthless thing when once
disabled and left to die from
neglect more often as from any
other causes, We are camped now
2 miles from town south in sight
of Mr Whitfields this is a very pretty
country though the lands are thin
(do you get my letters I write every
time I am still lucky enough to perform
the pleasant duty — Oscar handed
me yours of the 5th which is the
third I have received since I came out
Our Col, you know is wounded, and it
may be that we will remain here
some time. Tell Josh I would not
advise him to come in this regiment
for many reasons. tell him to come & see
me whether he comes or not Love to all kiss
the Children for Pa   Your devoted Husband

Corinth April 16th 62

My Dear Wife

I have written to you this weeks the 6th time since our memorable battle of the 6 & 7. and I fear from what I hear you havent received any of my letters as there is a general order stopping all communications with this place by letters or other means as one of my mess Mr. Tate is going down this evening I will try and get him to drop this at Germantown for you as I fear from the tone of your letters since of the 8th that you are suffering immensely in reference to my welfare & safety which I thank God is as complete & satisfactory as it could well be, for amid all the

din and danger of a hard fought battle
I escaped unhurt. The awful and harrowing
Incidents of which It would take a
Book to write. All of which I will
leave untold until God willing it
is my happy lot to join my sweet wife
and dear little ones at home, which
I hope won't be long. I thought my dear
that I appreciated my noble home
dear sweet little ones and a wife
far better in many respect than I
deserved. But I did not. How unfortunate
It is that we lose all the sweets of
the present with the anxieties of the
future It has been so with me
But why do I write thus to you when
you know me as well as I do myself
I am in one of my moodes this evening
when there is no congeniality between

on and things of earth except that. That constitutes a part of me which is your own individuality. What would I not give to meet my dear Sallie and sweet children now. God grant that a speedy end may come to these scourging blights of every thing dear in life. Col Downer is in Camp this morning that we will be ordered to Fort Pillow I hope it may be so. We can't stay in this country as Cavalry. Our Horses are starved out and unless better provision is made we will soon be dismounted. Our Regiment is a valuable one to the service in fact the only Cavalry that does any thing. Sallie I don't want to make a public matter of a misfortune of ours, But I will tell you

that the Confederate army here
is in the worst imaginable disorder
and if it is to be taken as a sample
of our ability to win our independence
it is exceedingly doubtful. I assure
you, I could tell you things that
I saw upon the battle field, that
I consider a burning shame to Southern honor
and chivalry. (this alone is for you —
alone). I haven't heard but little
from you since I left. write more
so often. it is hard to keep up with
us. [illegible] hope you have read
my letters and they may find you
well & happy. I haven't been the
least unwell since I came out
and have been through enough to kill
any common man. Our Company report
only 40 or 50 fit for duty. Tell [illegible] Sam go —
My love to all kiss the little one for
Pa — With all love & affection yr Husband

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JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Correspondence, 1862: May

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[illegible] [illegible] 8th 1862

My Dear [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] of [illegible] a fine day [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] for [illegible]

and [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Company [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] by [illegible]

[illegible] be [illegible]

The [illegible] on brought [illegible]

[illegible] Corinth [illegible] 2 [illegible]

and [illegible] a good many [illegible]

not [illegible] the result [illegible]

were confined here in the [illegible] for
the [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible]
There was a sharp sound of cannonading
yesterday [illegible] [illegible] down [illegible]
around, [illegible] there is excitement and prepar
ation for the [illegible] [illegible] which
may come off any day, & may [illegible]
months. [illegible] [illegible] come [illegible]
It will be [illegible] I think that [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
we are [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
them [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] yesterday [illegible]
The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] morning [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Glory, we [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible]
say [illegible] [illegible], as they call them
couldn't [illegible] them [illegible] would [illegible]
[illegible] (the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible])
"It is thought by [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to
know; [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] $25000. [illegible]

And the victory must be won, God [illegible] [illegible] the way;

And [illegible] for me and [illegible] my darling wife [illegible] happiness on the morning of the first [illegible] hundred and [illegible] then like [illegible] the [illegible] as I was return- [illegible] in loveliness & the peace [illegible] with song, [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] back to you again [illegible] and [illegible] my [illegible] [illegible] I [illegible] my [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] blushing [illegible] and would clasp with passionate devotion to my bosom the wife the mother of our children that [illegible] every thing tender that [illegible] to our nature. In fact all in life, the [illegible] of the [illegible] desire. "But ah my wife how vain & foolish would seem any hope of future happiness in this our unfortunate and [illegible] country how vain to attempt to calculate what will be; ——

We have appealed in national council
we have tried the capacity of armed
wisdom of words we call great
we have armed the strong arm
with bristling steel and ag[illegible] all
would seem [illegible] a [illegible]
failure. Still the ultimate conquest
of wrongs amended beyond this people should
be done. unless God help us we can
nothing better for us that we find mankind
[illegible] in this dark hour I can
but hope our cause must be first by
if it is God will help us. Grant it may
Almighty father (I was delighted to hear
from James and am surprised and
astonished that any one here at home should
offer any reason [illegible] all and their
country now, (I am proud to say I am
made of sterner stuff) While I hope it may
be well with me, yet my dear wife you must
prepare yourself for the worst. And let my
presence live with in the person of my children

[1862]

Sunday Eve
May 11th

My precious husband,

I have just returned from Germantown & find Em about to start a boy off to Mr. Evan's with some letters for Frank to take to Corinth & although I have time to write only a few lines, this good opportunity shall not slip me. Pa & I went to Jen— this morning to see if we could get any news from Corinth. We saw dispatches of the engagement between Price & Pope— Also saw that Jackson is advancing down in Va, I am thankful for such a [illegible] & pray to God that we may soon have peace.

My dear One your sweet letter of the 5th came to hand yesterday — also one from Ed, dated May 1st. He writes so cheerfully! I have read your devotional letter again & again & expect to read it many more times. We are all anxiously expecting a battle at Corinth— I pray that we may be victorious & our loved ones spared—

Write soon again my beloved one —
& may God bless & preserve you is
my prayer — I have not time to
write more — Our little ones are well —
Pa says he would go up if he were
permitted, but I believe no visitors
are allowed at C now —
[illegible] B. [illegible]

Nellie —

Orion Hill
May 18th 1862

My dear, dear Husband,

This lovely, quiet sabbath finds me with our dear little Ones at Uncle Alex's. Aunt Kate & I attended Church at morning Sun to day, had an excellent sermon by Mr Ewing & enjoyed the blessed privilege of partaking of the Lord's supper. & it is needless to tell you my dear One that while there on bended knee, so near my saviour, my fervent prayers for you were borne from the Holy Sanctuary. As unworthy as they were, I believe a Merciful God did at least condescend to lend a listening ear to them. And now this holy sabbath while all nature wears a tranquil, solemn air in attestation of the truth that there is a reality in a superior power, an irresistable impulse to commune with my kindred spirit, my heart's idol, possesses me, & I would, had I the language, pour out my heart to you; but as language fails me, & mouth fails to speak out the abundance of the heart I refer you to the silent tear which courses

down my cheek whenever I attempt to give expression to my feelings - as description of the emotions which ever crowd my mind & occupy my heart. I would ask no sweeter pleasure than to be permitted - to open the floodgates of my heart upon that dear bosom which never refused to pillow my weary spirit. But, I beg you my beloved absent one, to forgive my sad theme this evening - it has been so long since I heard from you, I feel depressed, in consequence of it. The last tidings from you, were dated May 5th. A sweeter letter was never penned by mortal hands. None but the pure in heart, can utter such sentiments as my idolized husband. Never speak of my goodness. Such as I am you have made me, & if I had yielded more to you I might have been better than I am. I feel far inferior to one so noble in every sense of the term. Many, Many times, in retrospections hour have I lived over those happy days to which you allude. And are they gone? Can we never recall them, Oh harrowing thought! deep, dark oblivion has buried them - so deep that they can never be resurrected. But may we not hope that in the distant future bright days are in

store for us. Yes, I will hope - & though the hour of adversity is upon us - I will not despair - it has been said that "every cloud hath a silver lining" & through the vista of the future - I catch glimpses of sunnier hours - God will not always be angry, he will not always chastise us, we will get down in the very dust of humility, acknowledge our iniquities & as a tender parent he will have mercy & forgive his erring children - Oh! my husband strive to live near that divine Being.

I find everything moving on very well at home; I am confident Mr Oats is conscientiously doing his duty - Some of the negroes are rather refractory, but I talked to them yesterday & hope they will do better in future. Jim told me to tell you "howdy & say to you that he feels like a house without a top - says when he saw you walking about the yard he always felt easy but is now lost" he wants to be in the army with you. What a faithful servant he is!! Mr Oats says the wheat bids fair to make 1200 bush - he planted no Cotton, but 175 acres in corn. I am trying to do the best I can my dear husband, & wish

I knew better what to do. Give yourself no uneasiness about home matters. All I require of you, is to take especial care of your dear self. I am proud that you are so nobly discharging your duty to our unfortunate country. Bro Roscoe wrote Em that your box was at Corinth, but says he has no idea where you are.

I called on Mr Godbey yesterday evening, he is quite sick, has pneumonia: he says you have a hard time - & still you never complain, how magnanimous you are!!

My ardent prayer & desire is to see you once more. Your good Aunts up here manifest deep interest in you. Aunt Jane & Col C. think Royster is exactly like you. Aunt Kate says, if you will write to her she will have the letter published she deems you fully capable of saying something in behalf of our Cause. Mollie Crenshaw was here when I came - requested me to give her love to you. She is a pure, sweet girl - a lovely creature. Jennie sends best respects to Mr Terry. All your relatives join me in love. Nettie & Berta say, send my love to Pa & tell him we are quite well. Royster still protests that Papa is sweet. Write soon my loved one - & may God bless you protect you & restore you to my anxious heart is the prayer of

Your devoted, Wife.

Excuse haste as I havent time even to read this letter over. Good bye my darling sweet wife

Corinth May 24th 1862

My dear Wife -

I rec'd yours of the 18th yesterday, and notwithstanding I wrote to you and my sweet little Children but a few days since, I cannot resist the temptation to indulge in my chief pleasure again this morning, as I have an opportunity of sending it direct. And you must pardon me my conceit or an expression of my feelings from drinking the sweets of your affectionate eloquent devotional and loving letter. It filled me heart too full to be relieved except by the overflowing of me eyes unused as they are to the melting mood. And my pride is that the author, the woman of such intelligence and purity of heart and sentiment, is my Wife, the Mother of me Children, ——

On the morning of the 22nd the Army here was in motion by 4 oclock with the intention of making an attack on the Federals. We took our position on the extreme right in Prices division under command of Gen Vandorn. We moved up to where we expected to find them, but behold they

want them the failure on their part
to meet us prepared for an other day
become the greatest battle that ever
was fought on this Continent —
The failure of the enemy to meet us prompted
us urgently after the enemys movement
[illegible] Col "[illegible]" is the man for that sort
[illegible] of [illegible] So out of his regiment
[illegible] called a [illegible] men that would go with
him of [illegible] and take a [illegible] Boat
[illegible] was [illegible] the [illegible] guard
[illegible] the sight of their breastworks
and after looking around a while
found that they were not occupied —
he went in and found they had moved
every thing they [illegible] towards our centre —
he picked up one prisoner Pete Hanna of
Illinois, he was just from the river and going
to join his division. Said he was very sorry
to meet us. he is a fine looking man —
Farmington just 4 miles from here is the
Strong hold of the enemy. we stood picket
3 days out in that and this week [illegible] had
one sharp fight of 3 or 4 hours — we drove
them from their position I sent them some
25-odd [illegible] [illegible] — we had little or no
damage done on our side and judge from
their moving off that we got the best of it —

Sallie I must confess I am getting home sick. I don't think you can possibly want to see me as bad as I do you. But I feel at the same time that I have a high duty to perform here and if needs be must sacrifice any other consideration. And for my God, my Country my wife & my children all to give even my life as a ransom to redeem our Country from disgrace and insult. As a people we must discharge our duty before we have a right to claim any thing from a higher power.

Sallie you must not be despondant or repine yourself to brood over your hard lot and sacrifices here. Bear my dear wife like a Christian & devoted wife and mother intelligently as a necessity. And I am satisfied the result will be a blessing. You know how I feel about these things. What a trial for me to leave all in life that is dear to me for the battle field. Nothing on earth but circumstances like those that surround us could act as an inducement. I yield to it as a necessity and without a murmur will do or die.

O my dear Children. Sallie I often wonder if any man ever loved his wife & children as I do mine. And my own little boy is just like me. God grant that he may have a soul & principal an—

Intended and opportunity that will make him good and good. Sallie you must know your [illegible] I am proud of your [illegible] you [illegible] as well as your more valuable & Solid Charms. I have determined as you advised [illegible] as soon as possible Concerning things at home [illegible] to [illegible] all to you, —
I am [illegible] of [illegible] Katies Interest in and good [illegible] you [illegible] has [illegible] him to [illegible] an estimate on my talents though If I could command the [illegible] and a [illegible] plan [illegible] Greatly [illegible]
I am Satisfied [illegible] through the [illegible] Shop
[illegible] on your [illegible] for [illegible] years that you should be [illegible] and I want to [illegible] you so as [illegible] that matter; must [illegible] I am jelous to have you think [illegible] on my [illegible]
I [illegible] wait for letter from you [illegible] write when ever I [illegible] an opportunity and [illegible] you to do this [illegible] to your [illegible] family. All relations kiss my Children for [illegible] (I will send your letters back to be filed for [illegible] Benefit rather than destroy them as I have to do [illegible] Write soon and May God bless you and yours in all things is the prayer of your devoted Husband —

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JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Correspondence, 1862: July

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This is in the greatest [illegible]
the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

July 15th 1862 —

My Dear Sister

I am glad of an oppor-
tunity this morning to let you hear
from me & write to you. Sister —
[illegible] [illegible] and sincerely hope
you have received it — I feel and
know that it is now to be —
cut off from those dear to me
by circumstances and [illegible] all
[illegible] [illegible] is [illegible] a man
[illegible] — God grant to speed the
time when we shall be —
united in peace & happiness
but when that is to be who
knows, I haven't received a line
from you since I left nor
heard a word directly from
your neighborhood. How delighted
I would be to know that you
all are well. And God —

suppose nothing at the
hands of those that can with
with common humanity treat
you otherwise than respectfully
hoping all may be better
than we could reasonably expect
I will be content until
I know the worst of you
can write to me. You
know how it may be
done. I desire nothing so
much as to know the condition
of my family & friends
I spoke of you going on with
plans of improving the
Building Plan &c my last
Mr Ollis has orders to do as
you wish him. If you
find that every thing gets
quiet again you make your
improvements and can make
a safe and agreeable arrange-
=ment. I would advise you

to move Home. It will
fund you employment
and be better for you in
my absence. and if the
worst should come you
will be better prepared
to enter upon what will
then become a necessitated
duty to your family. Take
all under consideration
and act upon the decision
of your own good judgment
and I will be satisfied.
I am in perfect health
hopeful & secure in the
future and in as good
spirits as the nature of
the circumstances will admit
of. May God preserve and
vouchsafe his choicest
blessings to my darling wife
and little ones is the prayer
of your devoted Husband.

Being visiting 2 days
at the [illegible]
from [illegible]

My dear Wife July 17th 1862 —

I wrote to you yesterday very hurriedly and meeting the Dr here this morning in Rosecrans Camp I cant resist the temptation to write still more though I have really nothing that I would consider interesting still it is a gratification to me for the sweetest of pleasures is to sit and hold converse with my own wife in whom is centered all of earth to me. —

I have often thought Sallie since my visit home if I only could make it over again that I would know how to enjoy it — how little are we prepared to enjoy the present no matter how sweet — so full is the mind of forebodings of ills or absorbing anxieties of the future. Frail mortals are we, living on hope — catching at the shadow for the substance dissatisfied still ever striving for something that will render us happy and contented in this world. —

It all fails and will ever to fill the void — God in His wisdom has so constituted man that no matter how enviable his station or luxurious his comforts, learned in literature or valiant in war — surrounded by all that earth can give, yet the void is not filled. So I have come to the conclusion that what we get out of the present of pleasure is all that we can safely calculate on, and if we dont embrace it heartily we cheat ourselves and hang our hope on a frail reed as far as this world is concerned —

And what I am from [illegible] constitutes [illegible] Though you may never get them I will write often by every opportunity if for no more than the satisfaction and pleasure of writing. I wish to tell you that I have never turned from you since our last silent and sad [illegible] parting yet I cannot help but feel that you all are safe and comparatively [illegible] under the circumstances [illegible] I have [illegible] any harm or injury to you all unless it is prompted by them that you would suppose you had a claim on for friendship. I say a man at home able to bear arms no matter under what pretext is a traitor to his country a coward and deserves the condemnation of every man woman & child in the Southern Confederacy. I mean what we call able men, (& if I ever live to get back will preach it on the house tops. I can't tell you when or where we will go, for we don't know. But hope it will be forward which I think is probably the intention. (When I got in camp I found [illegible] missing no one could give any account of him. (It seems he was taken sick and took [illegible] a house [illegible] a long spell of fever, and by accident rather I heard from him. He is now with us and in fine health. I can't write more God bless you my dear boy

Yr affectionate
husband

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Correspondence, 1863

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[1863?]

Shelbyville
Tenn

Dear Sister
Jane 22nd

Hasten to avail myself of this opportunity of writing to you. I have been wishing & longing for some intelligence from home and it seems impossible for me to get any. So it gives me great pleasure to write any way I always write whenever I get an opportunity of sending a letter I received a letter from "Miss D" but it was so [illegible] & desponding. She did not say whether or not the Infernal Yankees had troubled you all or not though I took it for granted that all was well or she would have said something. How I do long to see you all once more, but we only wish for that we can't get through if we are successful at Vicksburg I can't help but think that we will have the pleasure of seeing those dear ones we love so much. I hear [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] [illegible] they are both in fine health & spirits. often [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] & John. [illegible] [illegible] when John is as soon as you can get an opportunity of writing. Jennie has [illegible] her daughter [illegible] [illegible] to you [illegible] the [illegible] I saw [illegible] D [illegible] [illegible] he is quite well & [illegible] as ever, said he intended writing to aunt Kate soon. Bless her dear soul kiss her & [illegible] for yr [illegible] Brother & thank them for that letter, sent by Frank Mays. Don't forget [illegible] & [illegible] & my much loved Uncles. remember me most kindly to Uncle [illegible] family. Do let me hear from you whenever you can for it does give me so much comfort remember me to my [illegible] & yrs. [illegible] sends his love to all Good bye Sis & when you write give me all the news accept a kiss from yr Brother B. I. [illegible]

P.S.) I would write to Adeline but tell her the Gentleman who carries our letters is hurrying me. Sis have you gotten out of the pistol scrape! Send my love to somebody & I would like to get a letter from somebody.
Make Rosette kiss all the girls for me. Dick [illegible] down with [illegible] yesterday [illegible] Brother [illegible]

[illegible]
Co. B. Co 4th Reg Ill.
[illegible] Brigade
[illegible] Division.

1

PS) I would write to Helen but tell her the Gentleman who carries our letters is hurrying me, Sis have you gotten out of the pistol scrape? Send my love to somebody & I would like to get a letter from somebody.
Make Rosetta kiss all the girls for me. Dick Tim Dinner with me yesterday evening. [illegible] B. S. Thurman
C. B. Co 4th Reg Tex.
[illegible] Brigade
Whitings Division.

B. S. Thurman

C. S. Thurman
"Camp Life"

Camp near Chattanooga Tenn
July 31st '63

Dear Sister,

Happy indeed was I to receive those letters from you & Jennie, I had almost despaired of ever hearing from you all again, it had been so long since I heard from you, But I am perfectly elated with joy at the reception of so much good news from home. We certainly have been blessed since this war commenced, & how grateful we ought to feel since the whole Country is almost devastated & our own sweet homes thus far unmolested. But let's not rejoice too soon lest the "Vandal hordes" pay us an unwelcome call some future day. Our Army is now in fine condition. Some few were sick for a while from exposure on the late march from Shelbyville. but the Convalescent camp is being vacated rapidly & an increase of from one to two men every three or four days is added to our list of "Present for duty." I have been quite well during the spring & summer " only the neuralgia bothers me a little occasionally, it's remarkable the disease, I have had a bad cold twice since I left Columbus & if I was at home I would suffer with one every month or two. We haven't a tent in the Reg't & when it rains (but I have [illegible] the day when it don't rain for it's nearly an every day business up in these mountains) We strip & put our clothes in our Knapsacks until the rain is over, some stretch a blanket & get under it. But when the weather is pleasant I prefer the former plan.

Please excuse me Miss Ella I forgot that Sis was honored with your presence, but you need not tell this to Ella Mrs T. Since I have associated so long with Soldiers though, you must not expect any thing refined & elegant in my letters. I regret deeply the loss of Jane how long was she Sick? It seems that our home is famous for that disease. I hope you will not have another case.

And Ed Leake poor fellow is gone how sad is death I have just rec'd a letter from Kate informing me of the death of her youngest child little Lea, & it has only been a little over a year since she lost little Bettie how distressing it must be to her & Dr. L. to have their dear little ones torn thus from them by that mighty monster death, But we all have to bear the miseries & ills of this life, So we must bear them with firmness & fortitude. I am very glad to learn of the health & happiness of Miss Maggie hope she may always enjoy just such. Am sorry to learn that she was, on a certain occasion too bashful to inquire after me. but She need not bother herself about me for she is too old. You ask if I want a Substitute? Of Course I do & I want to get Married too, if you will pick me out first some handsome Girl of 16 or 17. with about 50 or a 100, thousand. then make her promise to be mine, I should be happy, too happy. I Should die right dead but am willing to risk it if I could get a Substitute at any reasonable price I would like very much to join the Gorillars in your country. I intend to see you all after the 25th of

April next, I have all my arrangements made
& am only waiting for the time to come. And little
Helen has seen the 'Blockade' bless her dear soul
I would like so much to see her, hope she will call
on Dick & myself. This letter I hope will reach
you for then I can have some hope of hearing from
you again soon. The Chattanooga Rebel contains good
news northern dispatches say that it certainly is the
intention of England to recognize us & France has
already taken steps in favour of recognition & that
England has determined to furnish us a Navy. hope
all this is so but I am too old a Soldier to take in too
much at once, We all so have a camp rumor this
morning to the effect that Genl Bragg has recd an
official dispatch that foreign Powers have interv
If all this is true its time to rejoice is it not? Give
my best love to John & all my friends tell Ella I
will be more affectionate than she was, ask her to
accept a kiss, in return for respects. We Southern
Veterans can't accept anything less than love from
the Ladies, & I want a kiss from every one who claim
to be my friend, they must prepare themselves except
those who have bad teeth. love to Aunt Kate & Uncle
A. Uncle Joel & family. also Gr. Pa's family. Chris sends love
to you & John & says if he was back there he would like
to break down another Carriage & let Miss Chasl fall long
side of him again. sends his respects to all his acquaintance
How comes on Old Trustus Dash & my sweet old
Violin? Good bye. A kiss from your Brother

Percy Thurman

Sis I had finished & sealed up your letter, but
as I have received the letter sent out by [illegible] I
shall add a little, I am quite sorry to learn of the
disloyalty of the citizens of our country, we can
settle with them when peace is made. But
Sis a man in Uncle Joel's condition can't do us
much harm. But I must acknowledge that I was
surprised when I heard he had taken it, I
thought he was the last man to take the oath
of allegiance to the Federal Government.
It is all a mistake about Jones's having left me
he has had a thousand opportunities, & several times
other servants who left have tried to persuade him
off. I have the utmost confidence in him,
Since [illegible] John will have to leave you, why
don't you all bundle up & come out negroes & all
I would like so much to have Royal with me
if there is any possible chance please get John to
bring or send him to me. I would be glad to have
my hat which I left at Aunt Jane's please send it
to me by the first opportunity. I would write to John
but I have to make out some payrolls. the order is
as soon as possible, so he must content himself with
what I have written you. Another kiss & I bid
[illegible] love Your affectionate
Brother

B. F. Thurman
Q. M. C. 4th Reg. T. V.
Chattanooga
Tenn

Please forward to Mrs Thurman

Camp near Chattanooga
Aug 16th 1863

Dear Brother:

As Mr. Gilson was [illegible] to take you a letter I will certainly write, though I have just started several letters a short time since. but I enjoy writing to you, so on this occasion I shall write you [illegible]. I was very glad to see Mr Gilson, & he seemed very much pleased to find us so well & cheerful. Also, but Dr Stewart [illegible] tells me he saw you not long since & says you have given out the idea of coming out South, I am truly glad for you can serve your Country as well there as you can here, then you can also be near home, & thereby Comfort your family & take care of yr. property &c &c which would otherwise

probably be destroyed. Lottie you have
gotten entirely out of the notion of
keeping house & when you do take a notion
to come out, please bring yr family
& don't leave them subject to the insults
& outrages of an unprincipled foe. Oh!
how I do wish you all could have been
here & heard the delightful Sermon that
I had the pleasure of listening to on
last evening, delivered by Rev D Palmer.
He has favored us on several occasions
lately with his divine & very interesting
sermons. We can appreciate one of his
Sermons after being bored to death by
these little didappers who generally preach
for us. All the letters sent me from
home lately reached me. I recd yours
& Sue's which were in the same envelope
sent out by Helen. I very often receive letters
from our relatives in Va who inquire after
you & Sue very affectionately. Last accounts
they were all well. I have just come
back from a trip on the Mountain

Col Sellars & Samuel Chilton are both boarding up there at the same house drinking Calybeate water for their health. I stayed all night with them & spent the next day very pleasantly admiring the scenery & finally towards 12 O'clock called in at a house where there was two nice Ladies heard some good music on Piano & Guitar & got a good dinner. LookOut is very attracting. I think I shall pay another visit up there soon. I almost wish I could get sick so that I could go up there & board. It is such a nice pleasant place. You can go out there in the morning & every thing is as dry as it is in the Valley & the day there is never any dust up there at all & any quantity of the finest & best water of all kinds nearly. I wish Sis could take a trip up here & visit the Point of Lookout. I saw a little

[illegible] in the mountains so much like Hattie, that I nearly took a fit over the child. Mrs Haldemans little daughter. [I] never saw two children more alike in my life. She talked like Ned. I [tol]d her I was going to take her off with [m]e - when she turned to her ma & (just as Ned would do,) & Mamma don't you[?] allow [th]at man take you little baby[?]. I had to holler right out when she said this. How I do long to see those little ones of yours Kate. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] & [illegible] [illegible] kisses from Your devoted Brother

R. S. [illegible]

P.S. Much love to Aunt Kate & family, Aunt [illegible] Uncle [illegible] & Mrs Williams family, all of our friends are well. Young[?] [illegible] his love to you all & [illegible] to the servants. Tell them howdy for me.

Beverly

Camp Near Lafayette Ga
Sep 17th/1863

Dear Sister

I have devoured the contents of yours & also that of several other interesting letters from cousins & friends and as I have but little time that I can call my own I must hasten to answer. We are on the move now & have been for over a week, left Chattanooga on the 6th inst. not demoralized as the Yankee papers say but on the other hand full of cheerfulness & in fighting trim. But Rosecrantz with his forces divided, threatened Chattanooga and at the same time was marching a force down Wills Valley on the opposite side of the "Mt" from us trying to get in the rear of Bragg. In behalf of Mr. Rosecrantz I would say that he has displayed first rate Generalship For I think his whole intention was to get Chattanooga which is certainly a strong hold, a very small Garrison could hold it against almost any force. So soon as our army left Chattanooga to check the progress of those coming in our rear down Wills Valley & across the mountain at Nickojack Cove. We were all surprised to learn that a considerable force had marched around the foot of "Look Out point" and won the Capture of the evacuated "city" above mentioned. We have orders now to be ready to move at a moments warning with two days rations on hand. Which way we are bound for I can't tell but hope its northwards. I think we will make a flank movement & cross the Tenn River below Mr Rosecrantz & go into middle Tenn. But what right have I to think. I shan't say any more about Military matters My business is to fight & not talk & I can fight a devlish sight better than I can talk. excuse that expression will you!

Well Sis I reckon I have kept my secrets from you too long. And as you are one on whom I can rely I shall trust you with the inmost secrets of my heart. I can deny it no longer. "Madge" is the Girl I love. (My abreviation for Maggie) We have been engaged four Years this coming winter. And [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] by this cruel War our affections for each other are still the same. She is a dear sweet Girl. Sis & by far the most intelligent Young Lady of my acquaintance. Oh those sweet letters of hers I wish I could get one every day. They are so cheering to one whose happiness is dependent upon the fortunes of War. For our engagement cannot be consummated until a cessation of hostilities. Sis do not divulge my [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] but one [illegible]

Most gladly do I accept the kisses from Misses [illegible] & Ella ask them to accept a smack & two or three little kisses in return. I am glad to learn that the children are good looking. I want to see them so bad & will see them next April & some one else too. Give my love to my dear Brother & tell him to stay at home. Where do you reckon Fred Chambers is ought I to tell or not? Poor boy can't stand the Ball [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Ambulance for the 13th Reg. given up his gun & sought that position to keep out of the ranks & out of danger, he is classed among what spirited young men in the Army call d—d cowards. So we lay him on the shelf. I hope this will not hurt the feelings of any Young Lady. Kiss all the children and a lot for your dear self & Remember your Brother & keep his Secrets. Good Bye

(Dav B Freeman)

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Correspondence, 1864: March-April

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Dalton "Ga"
Mar 6th 1864

My Dear Sis.

Many have been my trials & sufferings since I wrote you, And it seems that my worst trouble has not yet come. I have just written a long letter to Madge, which I will inclose to you. I am very much afraid I have made the Dear creature mad but it can't be helped. I suppose you have heard all concerning my being shot in the back, if not Mag will tell you. I just returned to my Command the other day after bein absent for several months, during which time the Galls have bothered me to death I was forced to engage myself to three just to get rid of them, What will somebody think of that. I hope it will not cause her to commit suicide. But Sis I want to hold a little sweet & private converse with you. I am thinking very seriously of breaking-

off my engagement with Miss M. What=
think you of it? I feel that I am doing her
great injustice. Our engagement has been
prolonged already on account of this War.
until I begin to think, even the war to end, it
would be doubtful whether a consummation
of our engagement would ever be realized,
And twould be too bad to deceive such a
true & good Girl. Oh these long engagements
are Killing. Can't you devise some plan by
which I may be able to release myself
from this engagement? If not I shall
take to drinking. And by that means
break it off. I'll Just drink long enough
to get a report out. Oh, do help me will
you? I Know that she is much admired
by a Dr, who lives on the other side of Ha[illegible]
do you Know which is the other side, I am
sure I don't from here. But however its true
He has been trying to supplant me for a
long time, he is a nice fellow, & I Know
she would marry him, were she not—

mortgaged, How sincere she must be
What a pity that I should be so fickle
& insincere. But it's not insincerity on
my part, absence has done it all, and
absence. Sis it is all true, And I swear
by heaven & all that is sacred, that it
must be broken off before this War closes
for I can't disgrace myself afterwards.
Keep all this secret & help me all
you can. I love Dear Ma.. but cannot
marry her. Accept kind wishes & Kisses
for Yourself & Children
Much love to John & all my Kinfolk
[illegible] Brother

From Uncle Beverly Shannon
Killed in Georgia

Mar Tenn River April 21st /64

Dear [illegible]

It is likely that Mr B. Amman a member of our Company may come in your neighborhood & it will be a good opportunity to send me the horse. & Boy. I must have a Boy if one can be had [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] some [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] since I left [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] to my promise & let you know [illegible] [illegible] you send me a good one in [illegible] [illegible]. Let the Boy if you get one Ride a good mule. Which ever you thinks best to spare he has a feeling of [illegible] with the Boy [illegible] & he would be best to work [illegible] & not keep [illegible] too [illegible]. We are Saddled ready to march, so I must bid you good bye for the present will write a long letter soon

Your [illegible] Husband

1A

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Correspondence, 1864: May-June

Folder 14 of 23

Approval of your devoted
& absent Husband J.P.Y.

McDonald's Batalian
Tupelo May 17th 1864

My Dear Wife

When I last wrote you near Boli[var] we were just on the eve of a battle, Engaged the enemy near in Gun Shot where I finished the letter and I had to give it to Dr. Dowell, asking him if you [illegible] to direct & convey it to you which I hope he did, they [illegible] my things from your [illegible] [illegible] doing [illegible] but little damage. [illegible] [illegible] as you know about the burned [illegible] the [illegible] of our Wagon Train [illegible] a good long fight as usual [illegible] in the fight & [illegible] the [illegible] & thank God [illegible] any injury [illegible] [illegible] which [illegible] [illegible] by a [illegible] —

I have delayed writing hoping to receive one from you as there have been so many coming in [illegible] [illegible] I suppose that you have failed to get an opportunity from your isolated home. Or committed it to some negligent fellow who failed to deliver which is very frequently the case So thus I console myself that the will is good & my darling wife only asks opportunity to do the pleasure

Thank God for my good Wife, since we
we have been here we have been under the
strictest discipline preparatory to a move
we will leave in the morning I think in
a direction of Fulton at least I hope so —
besides the pleasure of [illegible] a fellow
[illegible] to help [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible], I will [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Bro. & [illegible] Angels
with many a [illegible] [illegible] that
have stood [illegible] County in the [illegible], [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] will
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] independence
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
day & God [illegible] [illegible] may still be [illegible]
send [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and return
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
We have been [illegible] at Tacona a station
on the R Road where a fine Church and had
Col Kelly of whom you have heard me
speak, and other fine ministers to preach
for us, with very favorable results. —
Col. Kelly It is said is ordered to take —
Command of the Battalion. The men have
become very much dissatisfied with Col
Couse, In fact have no respect for
him at all. I am sorry to see it — think
him a clever man, Col Kelly you know was

formerly our Lt-Col with the old regiment
he is a very competent man and a brave
officer. I surmise from the signals and
[illegible] [illegible] that we are ordered to take
with us that we will likely return to this
Department. The men & officers for this expedition
are all picked. Maj Allen will comd us
under Col McCullough. The balance of the
[illegible] will remain here with Col C.
Well Sallie, how do you get on with the rebels
around. The neighbourhood of Hickory [illegible] I
would suppose if they had [illegible] well
that you would likely be subjugated and
confiscated by this time and likely a prisoner
& a slave to their bidding. Inform me
I should like to be posted as to the progress
of war in that department against Women
& Children. The campaign will likely reflect
great credit upon Col Williams & Lt-
Col Chester & Maj Cannady Comd. I hope the
thirst for Glory will be satisfied. Brave
Southern Patriots they. "If however you have
been able to make a respectable defence &
and can still defend your castle & feed
the Garrison, I should advise you to hold
on by all means until fall, for I think probably by that time
you may get reinforcements and I may
feel willing take comd myself. "Can't it be so"
[illegible] is for such a [illegible]

I came by Scruggs on my way home and
got my young Bay and three [illegible] —
she is very [illegible], though I don't need
her. I traded Fanny for a very fine large
horse — [illegible] Hunter at Hot Springs
he suits me better than any horse I ever
had [illegible]. And I have concluded
if I meet with a gentle [illegible] pony
that [illegible] to swap the filly
and send the pony to you, and then you
can [illegible] the [illegible] you have & send
him to me by [illegible]
I expect [illegible] we will start on
to [illegible] our [illegible]
[illegible] will be [illegible] country
[illegible] way.
Well my dear wife it may be a month or
more before you hear from me again
but you must not despond or be over
come by these trials, know that you are ever
dear to me and these sacrifices hardships I endure
because I love My Wife & my Children & would
win for them happiness in the future.
My love and kindest regards to all
that love & appreciate me. To my negroes
say that I often wonder if they are faithful in
in my absence & respectful to you. Kiss the dear
Children for Pa & teach them to be [illegible]
& wise (and learn — that we they to exercise judgment of your
in all things that pertain to our interest — [illegible] the [illegible]

Send me your address, I am not certain that I directed my letters right. Your Sallie.

"Home"

[illegible]th [illegible]

My dearest friend,

Your precious letters of the 17th & 19th came to hand yesterday. Imagine my joy when Farmer rode up to the door & handed them to me; they were handed to him by Capt. Harrison. I have looked earnestly for Lieut. H. & my pony, but they have neither yet appeared; I fear I will fail to get my nice present, which would be invaluable in my eyes, coming from my beloved absent one. I have written you twice, besides this, since the command went out, hope you have recd the letters by this time. Be assured my darling I shall write you by every good opportunity for in your absence it is, of all others my greatest pleasure. I know of no opportunity of sending this, but expect to hear of one tomorrow as I am going to Church; we are blessed with services in Withe; every Sabbath.

I am so grateful to you for those good, sweet letters, they repay me for everything, make me feel more independent & all so happy. I have read them five or six times & expect to read them as many more before laying them aside for security. I have every letter penned by your dear hands, since the war, & some written years ago, then all was brightness, peace & harmony. And oh! What a feast I have sometimes in my lonely hours! a sweet sadness overshadows me after reading them, they bring you so plain before me, that my desire to see you is unbounded.

Thank you dearest, for permission to visit you, I shall certainly do myself that pleasure when I learn that you are stationary. And I shall be sure to take you something good to eat. We have plenty, fully able to feed the garrison & defend the Castle, have not the slightest idea of surrendering to traitors, altho' its self reliant will not refuse reinforcements whenever tendered & above all things would like to have a more capable Commander of a certain description, to wit: one handsome, intelligent, brave & noble. or in other words, my precious husband.

May 30th. I shall have to keep a sort of journal, my darling, as I can hear of no opportunity of sending the letter. I regret so much that I cannot communicate with you oftener. I started one letter through by Baron G— & one by other, hope you have got them both, the latter was written while suffering with sick stomach, so that I could not write a long letter I hope you will forgive me, I regretted having to send a blank leaf.

I hear you have gone to Dalton, although I have resigned you to the care of our blessed Saviour & know that He ~~can~~ protect you as well in one place as in another, I did wish that you might not be sent any further from me. I am always thinking of & planning the visit that I wish to make you & if we are both spared & you remain at Dalton or come nearer, I cannot disappoint myself. Our little ones are sleeping so sweetly & dreaming of Papa, every morning they have something to tell about you & I feel thankful that although so far from you, I am not denied the pleasure of meeting you in <u>dream land</u>. Oh! that I could awaken & find it a reality!

Don't you think you can get a furlough soon?

May 3rd [illegible]

This morning, to my inexpressible pleasure, Sandy brought me your letter of the 23rd written at Capt Fields.

And my dear husband, could you have seen the happy & yet almost sad tears that filled my eyes to overflowing when I read in every line, your tender solicitude for your devoted wife & little ones; it would have made you happy to know that you had opportunity of applying to my heart such a soothing balm.

I am glad to inform you that your presentiment was unfounded the only trouble I have, (those of my country excepted) is your absence, that weighs upon me more heavily than anything else. for I am in constant anxiety lest ill should befall, my darling one. I pray the almighty Father to spare his precious life & restore him to this little family!! I love you too well.

I have not seen Mr Thomas, nor any of his tribe, I hope they care & think as little about me as I do of them. Let so I am safe.

Col Chester's family have nothing to do with me, but I am perfectly independent—had no idea I could get along so well ~~without~~ without them.

Sinnie & I merely exchange common civilities when we meet—but & Aunt J & Capt C. I have not seen save at a distance. Do not distrust my firmness, I shall never yield the principle implanted in my bosom by a superior power & cultivated by an idolized husband.

Mr Williams' family seem so penitent for their treatment of me & are making so many efforts to ingratiate themselves again, that I shall at least withhold your note until an occasion calls for it. I shall find out from Mr. W. if possible his object for defeating our plans. I think he must have been tempted by the yellow God, for which so many men sell their souls, principle & honor. I hope darling, my judgement prompts me to do right. What say you?

Uncle Alex & Aunt Kate are firm friends & Pa takes great interest in our concerns. Mrs [illegible] & Mrs [illegible] spent a day with me last week. Mr G. inquired very particularly after you. You have a plenty of good friends Capt, my dearest & true men appreciate you.

Camp near West-Point — Mississippi
McDonalds Battalion
June 22nd 1864

My dear Wife

"After a long & tiresome march in to Central Ala. without the occurrence of any thing worthy of note we are encamped here for the purpose of resting our stock preparatory for some thing else which I hope will be to Tennessee permanently. But O who can tell what the next two months will develope; for in them — [illegible] time hence [illegible] the present indications is [illegible] determined beyond a doubt — what is to be the result of this terrible strife and blood shed. The prospects for us seem never more flattering. In fact I would seem that a superior power had directed every movement of our Army in the present Campaign. I could not possibly give you in detail our innumerable successes up to this date, but suffice it to say it is all & more than we could reasonably hope for, though there is nothing yet decisive in either Virginia or Johnstons army. We get the southern papers every day & keep well posted as far as they dare publish what is transpiring. I have written to Rosa & Bee, but as yet have heard nothing from them. God grant they may pass unharmed through the terrible conflict that must take place between the armies very soon. It cant be postponed long unless Sherman declines an engagement entirely and gives us our loved Tennessee!

Your dear sweet letters of the 29th & 31st reached me on my arrival at this place through the hands of Mr. J. [illegible]. I also received the one written by Chas at Montevallo, Ala, though C didn't come to us, he turned back at Columbus & I suppose went back to Tupelo, or home where he had better have stayed. Boys of his age & character are a perfect nuisance in the Cavalry service,

Language fails of expression to convey to you the quiet pleasure & soothing satisfaction produced upon your care worn & weary [illegible] husband [illegible] with a heart ever so responsive to every breathment of love and affection (longing) for the end of this painful separation! Breathing a prayer to God to speed the day when in blissful freedom we may be again united & be separated again no more, (how great my [illegible] is to mark the rapid development of character & self-reliance and independence — I hope you will cultivate it further. Think & consider well, & act with bold independence. "I can't" whether I endorse Course towards Williams or not, he is [illegible] to live where I do until he gives me ample satisfaction & explanation for his conduct, & the slanders he uttered he must take back or die. Therefore I would have you treat the Judas with the same contempt that you do old Christian Thomas & the rest.

the advantages that have been taken of me in my absence. engaged as I am in helping to defend & protect the interest of the very scoundrels & traitors. That would even go so far as to attempt to brand my name with disgrace, pronounce a deserter. No—the man dont live that shall utter so foul a lie—no matter how tempting the Gold his craving desire—) —

I deeply sympathise with you I know it is harder for a woman to meet & brook what you will be compelled to. until I am free from the duties of a soldier my duties as a soldier have cast my character among a certain class. It is natural that it should be so. They look for profit in what would far them the ruin of our Country. I my Country's dearest trust let it cost in blood & treasure what it will. If I live I will show things up in their true character I care not how high the station of those that have acted the traitor & scoundrel in these times. Enough of this & if you will pardon me I will allude to it no more in my communications, for I cant without saying too much. — —

On our return from alabama we stopped

a day or two at Columbus. I called & found the acquaintance of our cousin Jamie Watkins and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] very kind to me [illegible] [illegible] very much of the kindness of my relations & friends I have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] me to visit them [illegible] sick or disabled in the service [illegible] [illegible] of them to come to the house as a home, the soldier can appreciate such kindness. (She has moved very [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from Ala. was seeing a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] but fortunately for him he [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the Yanks before we could [illegible] him I don't think I have seen the first man who was sorry for it [illegible] [illegible] This Battalion we would [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] benefit of we had [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a complete victory [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] killed by [illegible]! Forrest says it was the [illegible] fight he ever had, [illegible] to [illegible] of [illegible] and give all the news don't wait for answer as it is rarely we have an opportunity to [illegible] [illegible]. Tell Royster to get my Chickens fat & I will ride up some these days on my big Gray Horse and help him to eat them fat dinner. I hope by this you have sent yr Boy his name is Crockett.

Jan 23rd 1864

Camp near [illegible] Point
McDonalds Battalion —
1st Brigade 2nd Division
Dear Wife — Forrest Cavalry

I have just started to a long letter to you this morning via Dalton — But as the chances are doubtful for your getting it I will write again on Friday. It is likely we may remain here some time recruiting our stock and then from the present indications we will move nearer home. I long for that day. I am heartily sick of the wilderness of this Campaign. We have traveled nearly all over the Eastern East Tennessee and through some of the poorest country I ever saw. Though we are camped now in the very richest part of [illegible] the [illegible] of which you have heard me speak before. It is now

our celebrated Corn field and
the finest prospect I ever saw
better than ever was known
before. The Crop of wheat
is very fine in this region
and all through alabama as
far as we traveled. There are
millions of Bushels of old
Corn left enough in 3 or 4
Counties here to feed the
Confederacy six months —
So you see we can't be
starved out. (my friend is
waiting for me to finish so
you must put up with a
short letter this time. I am
getting pretty hard up for
Pants had to sling away
the last of my old ones. Send
me some by the first opportunity.
In fact it would be well
to send me a full suit
whenever you can get

them on good terms to
visit - a safe opportunity
to send them, I am in
fine health and our
Horses increase[illegible] fine
in fine spirits. Kiss my
dear Children for Pa
Remember me affectionately
to Aunt Lulu & your Pa's
family, and excuse
this Rush & Remember me
as your devoted husband
I am tired again so good
bye God Bless you
Write often & tell the
Girls to write. It is
such a pleasure to hear
from our friends out
here It is all of pleasure
we have I am sorry
I commenced to write
in ink

Camp near
Varonel Ky — McDonalds Battalion
2nd Brigade 1st Division
Forrest Cavalry
June 29th '64

My Dear darling Wife,

After a trip of six or seven hundred miles I am quietly this morning on the same spot I left. This trip is a practical illustration of human life — we know not what a day may bring forth or whither we may wander in the shifting changes in the progress of the world. Sometimes elated with pleasure and then dependent & drooping. Such is life — made up of ills & felicities, hopes & fears. (And I often [illegible] on [illegible] than otherwise met — one of my greatest pleasures here on my arrival was your letter of the 14th. My happiness in the perusal can be more easily imagined than expressed, and feeling that we are in sentiment and feeling the same I am again your constant kind [illegible] spends this moment my sweet wife to a similar happiness —

I would like very much to see
Tom & talk to him of the loved
ones at home but will be denied
that pleasure as we are ordered
to be in readiness for a move
at 4 oclock in the morning with
seven days rations which will carry us
many miles from these parts &
in what direction no one knows
yet. I have hopes that it may
be near you though our
movements are very uncertain
I wish you could have sent me
a pair of Pants by Tom. I am very
much in need of them. Their
being heavy is no objection the sutler
makes them out so just. I hope
you may have other opportunities
soon. Your letters all so far have
come direct & I feel very thankful
that we can have (while some are not) the pleasure of
this source of communication & enjoy
the feeling & sentiment of those lo

in coming. There are some
dear Johnsons mingled with
the tormenting anxieties of these
troublous [illegible] & exciting times
& I think the rich fruits of
the future will cause us to
feel yet that as a nation
& as individuals we are amply
repaid for the sacrifice. I
am so glad to find you
appreciated by & treated kindly
those of your equal worthy to
be your friend. In your kindly
I shall ever appreciate it as
a special kindness to me;
& Chirl particularly has shown
an appreciation of you & myself
a principal & character which
I can never forget. Truly she
is a noble girl, & is not the
first act by many that endears
her & honours her more than
worthy parentage. "Blessed is the kind

What a sad & melancholy circumstance the death of my dear Uncle, a good and worthy man, a source of pleasure & friendship ... attached to ... & the ... of principle ... his high ... & ... the ... of ... God ... be ... to the ... & support to his bereaved family. ... them ... & give all the consolation ... own ...

I ... feel to appreciate the good ... & ... of you ... & ... that my ... may ... words ... easily ... acts ... they are ... to ... & family ... of I thought ... by the time the ... ends ... his ... this is my last ... can ... glad ... that ...

God bless you dear darling ...

Yr husband

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Correspondence, 1864: Aug.-Oct.

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Army of Tenn 1st

Aug 16th 1864

Dear Sister

I have written several letters lately to you and others, but can't refuse this good opportunity of sending you a short letter. We have been remarkably quiet since the 22nd of July, on the extreme right no fighting at all, though the positions occupied by other portions of the Army have been assaulted frequently and on the left wing of the army there has been very hard fighting. The enemy has been foiled in his every attempt at flank movements since Genl Hood has been in command. And though there are so many who are much dissatisfied at the removal of Genl Johnston, yet if Hood succeeds in holding Atlanta, I think they will be converted. I received letters from Kate a few days since. They have not been disturbed

8th

This page was skipped unintentionally, and I shall try & fill it with something. I wrote Ivelin a long letter some time since hope she will receive. On the 18th the election takes place, and I sincerely hope that Gen'l J. L. T. Snead will be the one to fill the place made vacant by the death of our faithful Congressman David McKennie. Though I fear Cluskey will be elected, I wish it was in my power to elect Snead, for I am conscientious in believing that Snead is much the best man. More intelligent a man of higher standing in society, more efficient & in every particular more capable of filling the office. If I had a thousand votes I should give them all to him. Write me as often as you can, & make Helen write when ever she can. Remember me kindly to Aunt Harriet's family how much I sympathize with them. Chris says he never has received a letter from Miss Clark, he wrote her not long since.

Over

2nd "

... and it seems now that they have no fears. Aunt Helen writes me very frequently, they were all well when last I heard from them.

Sister, I know you will be surprised, when I tell you that I have been confirmed. But such is the truth, I have thrown aside all bad habits & resolved in future to be a better man.

Bishop Lay of "Ark" administered the Confirmation, to several others besides myself on the 10th instant five of whom were members of my Company.

I am delighted to see this spirit prevailing. We have set the example to members of my Company, & I hope that many more will follow. We all feel & know that pure motives have prompted us to take this step, and by the help of God we will lead a pious life, in future. I am tired of wickedness, & have humbled myself before

him who has promised forgiveness of our
sins. There is no news of interest relative
to military matters, nothing but vague
rumors which are not worth reporting.
Remember me kindly to my friends
& relatives. And knowing you to be a
kind & devoted sister, I send love and
kisses to yourself & family. A loving brother,

B. F. Kinnard

Camp near West Point
Forrest Ky.
Sept 7th 64

My Dear
Wife

An opportunity offers this morning to communicate with the dear ones at home and I assure you I embrace it with pleasure it being the first I have had since I came through. I arrived at my destination yesterday without any interruption whatever, & was surprised to find that Capt Field was expecting Em to come with me, it seems that he had written several letters communicating those wishes which he said that Em should meet him at Chatoma. He had not arrived home up to the 27th though he was looked for on every train. I hope Em

was well the letters are this &
met with a safe conveyance
through It would be so pleasant
to them to spend their time
together down here where
there is no fear or annoyance
of the enemy. Tell her to hurry
home. Though R Jenkins and
Mr & Mrs F requested me to insi
st on it. He would not have
them in the least & Em would
not be happy without them.
Bro Daniel has just come
through & reports that the
Yankees have abandoned the
R Road. I hope you all are
saved ours. & if so I think
the chances are very good for
security for some time to come
We have had very bad news
from Atlanta though nothing
official yet. So I wont credit
it yet. I think if we have

abandoned the place it is
to gain an advantage & not
an evidence of weakness on our
part. I don't think that our
Chiefs in Command will suffer
a disaster that would destroy
the brilliancy & great moral effect
of our more than successful
Campaign. If things are
managed right now Peace
must come soon; — —
& I don't believe there is a
man in the army that can
desire it as much as I do.
Not for myself, but my family.
For I know & feel that you
need me! though you must strive
to supply my place. The lesson
learned through the ordeal
that you are passing will
be worth more to you in
after life than you can
possibly imagine. It will

[illegible]

much [illegible]

[illegible]

"Home"
October 23rd 1864.

My beloved Husband,

Although but a few days have elapsed since I wrote you a short letter, I cannot refrain this lovely Sabbath morning from opening my heart to the only being on earth who can respond to its speaking & who can overlook its every weakness. I was not at all satisfied with the hurried written scrawl I sent by Messrs Alexander & Walker, please pardon its many defects as I had but a few moments.
Your precious letter of the 15 ultimo written at Corinth is now before me. Oh! darling, how can we ever repay the debt we owe that great & good Being, who has spared you through so many dangers & hardships? Upon bended knee every night I attempt to pour out my heart in gratitude to him, but this is not enough, we must glorify him as long as we live & honour him in all we do. Never forget yourself & offend him for he has shown abundant mercy towards you. Your conjectures are right as regards my anxiety about you, I was almost ready to despair when news of your safety reached ~~you~~ me:

feeling that a burden had been lifted from my depressed heart. I longed to throw myself at the footstool of mercy & offer up thanksgiving.
It is needless to tell you, my darling that not an hour has passed since learning that Francis is at Jackson, but that I have looked for you.
At every barking of the dog, my heart palpitates & I listen in vain, for the voice of my beloved.
It is strange you have rec'd no letters from me, for I have written at least six times since you left home. in three or four of which I gave you the particulars of our beloved Pa's death; hope you have rec'd some of them ere this; the one which contained Uncle Frank's letter to you was sent by Dr Dashiell, to Jackson, some time ago.
If you have not rec'd my letters, let me know & if impossible for you to get home, I shall write the particulars of his death again.
But my darling, for your Consolation, I can assure you ~~that~~ he is enjoying a blessed peace with the redeemed above. I rec'd a letter from him not long before he died telling me that he had been confirmed & by the help of God he intend to forsake sin & lead a different life. Chris says he had joined the Church & was willing to die. Although, it is so hard to give him up. Why should we wish him back? he has made a

priceless exchange & we can go to him. Yes thank God, it is only a temporal seperation.
I have sent for the clothing you desired & you must let me know whether there is still a hope of your getting home. if not & you remain at Jackson a sufficient time I shall take them to you, but it would be much more pleasant to have you at home a little while. And even now, while I write I look out the window every few moments, expecting to see you ride up. I do not see how I can live without you another year, it seems impossible,
we get along very badly without some one to superintend And Lincoln's free labor system is having a very bad effect upon the negroes. Oh! what bliss it would be to have you at home. I pray that peace may not be far distant. What think you of the election? it will soon be decided. how prone are we to catch at straws! I can but hope it will produce a change for our good.
You must have borne a conspicuous part in the fight with Hatch to have made such an extensive capture. I know you acted nobly, feel perfectly satisfied as to your valor, without another trial.
My humble servant is very exalted in the estimation of his wife. Our children are quite well, they look for Papa every day, they cannot desire to see you half as much as I do.
I am so impatient, it seems impossible for me to

to sit still & wait for you to come.
I know if Gen Forrest could know how much I wish to see my darling Husband, he would take pleasure in giving you a furlough.
Ma spent last week with me; she wished very much that you could come while she was here.
Aunt Kate & Pa's family always desire to be remembered in love to you. I wish it were prudent to tell you all I wish to say to you, but it is best to wait until we meet, which I trust will be before 8 o'clock to night. Genl. Rich— tells me he is getting together his old Brigade, says the Battalion belongs to it. We have no news.
How can I close this letter? While writing I am talking to you, my spirit communicating with its kindred Spirit. I had an unpleasant dream about you last night, hope you will come soon & dissipate every bit of it.
And now darling, I commit you into the hand of One who is able to take care of you & who has spared your precious life through so many perils. I pray him to take care of you, fit you for Heaven & restore you to your devoted little family.

Your true & devoted

Wife.

God bless my Husband.

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Correspondence, 1865: Jan.-Feb.

Folder 16 of 23

From J. P. Thurman
McDonald's Batt
Forrest Cavalry

(5)

Mrs S. E. Thurman
Hickory Withe
West Tenn

Okolona Jan 8th 1865

My Dear Wife

Since I left Home I have regretted that I did not wait a few days longer so as to have availed myself of the 20 days given our Regiment. We moved from Oxford down here after the Yankees finished their raid. Which was a very damaging one to us. They went just where they pleased without any resistance. It would seem from the management of our high Officials that they have determined to let every thing go to ruin by neglect & bad management. It is a sad picture indeed now,

Our Cavalry are ordered to go in to Winter Quarters
at Verona at least we will collect the Comd
together there. It is like Hoods army badly —
Scattered. But I hope before long we will be
able to show something that resembles an
army. I hear to day that Gen J. E. Johnson will
take Comd of the Remnant left if such be a
fact I have some hope, if not the army
of the Tennessee is numbered among the things
that were Jan 8th I am to day near Verona
at the House of my old friend Mr Davis. I am
here in advance of the Comd to select a Camp
which will be where we can get wood. as that
is the first requisite to an out door life. —

You would be surprised to see how well
I stand it. I really feel better than when
enjoying the good things of life in comfort.
And if I could feel that my family could live
without my presence & assistance I would still
do a willing service. Though I dont believe
now that even success without wiser legislation
would pay for the sacrifice. I never saw the
Country so despondent as they are since Woods
defeat & rout. I think we did wonders to
save any part of this army. — — —
The men I suppose that have been furloughed
will return if so we will get a very respectable
show of an army again —

Near Houston Jan 1st 65

Dear Sallie

I wrote you at Tavana the 5 inst. But fearing it may not reach you, I avail myself of this opportunity. as I will of every one I have to communicate with my Sallie. I am bearing a dispatch to the above place expect to return to our camp at Tavana in a few days. Our Comd is in a very disorganised condition & the Lord only knows when it will be otherwise. Hoods army is worse than nothing. And no

Cheering prospect from any quarter, the Tories
seem [illegible] heads them seem to see whether we are
getting. God grant it may result for the
best. We can only hope, — —
Said now that there was no necessity
for my coming out so soon. but might
have remained until the furlough by
the regiment expired, though I do not
regret coming as I would have been
subject all the while to all sorts of
fool orders that would have destroyed
my pleasure & usefulness at home.
You may send the letter from Father &
quickly to Gen Chalmers — —

to pass as soon as the Comd is organized
I will do my best to be relieved from
the army. though in the meantime you
must make every preparation to join me
still to the army & your Country. make all
your preparations for a Safe & if I should
succeed it will be all the better. —
You would do well to procure some Dols
as soon as you can. & if possible get
at least fifteen or twenty Bushels of Oats. —
I told Jim when to sow them —
It may be that we will make a raid
In after our furloughed Units. if so I will
try to see you.

I hope Mary has marched home before this
if not you had better send to Savage
& get the wagon & mules, Sallie you must
not stay by yourself, if Mrs B leaves you
you must get some one else or sell
out & board (that is if I cant come
home) I am all most determined sometimes
to quit & come anyhow, but I know you
are for me to quit in dishonor, Ellen
haste & write them long letters kiss
the dear children for Pa, remember me
affectionately to all friends & kind —
ever your affectionate
Husband

Near C. Rail road
Jan 26th 1865

Dear Wife,

An opportunity offers this morning to write you a few lines. We have been engaged for some time collecting absentees from the Army and it is very probable we may come in town before we return. I hope so for I think there are some men in my own neighborhood that ought to be made serve their country. Our orders are very strict. If I can I will try to see you though it is very doubtful. If I dont come you must try to do the best you can without me until

much my enlistment time is out
then & if not before I expect to change
my service or quit. If you could
engage the services of some one to
assist your negroes in preparing or
pitching a crop you would likely do
well, I really don't know what to
advise. Your circumstances & the advice
of your friends must controle you —
make your condition & your children
the first consideration & if necessary to
that end let every thing else go —
I have thought if I could see you or
your Pa — I would consider the practicability

[26 Jan. 1865]

of Selling out every thing for cash
& let the negro select their homes until
the war is over. Consider it — & if you
Pa — & Roscoe think it advisable act —
on it — & it will meet my entire approbation. I care more for your comfort &
happiness than every thing else. So if you
secure all you have in temporary —
possession. I am satisfied. You must not
stay by yourself what ever you do,
You must excuse this scrible I write
standing over a smoky fire &
nearly freeze at the same
time. O the life of a soldier

none can appreciate, but those that
do the Service of our poor Country,
Give my Love to all your Pa's family
& kindest regards to Aunt K & G. —
and all friends — dont send me
any Clothing until you find we have
returned South. We are under Comd of
Lt. Col. Forrest for the present
until we join our Reg & Brig.

In haste Affectionately
Your devoted
Husband

In Camp Near Corono
Feb 20th 1865

My Dear Wife

I wrote you a few days since at Oxford but fearing it may miss coming. A good opportunity offering I repeat the over fellow duty. We arrived here this morning having made a finish of our disagreeable & unprofitable duty viz — to make men do their duty. But let it go for what it is worth. — We may remain here until we reorganize &c. Our division now is Cmd by Gen Jackson — Richardson Cmd the Brigade. Our Reg & Comp. will likely remain as formerly reported. All of which — we know no [illegible] as we

advance in our small dispositions. So you
see since these changes my plans are some
what frustrated having lost my favorite
May [illegible]. I think it necessary
to wait until I find out the others. Again
I am not apt to do any thing. And I
fear very much owing to the dilapidated condition
of the army. The refusal of all exceptions
&c that I will fail to get what I want,
you must prepare yourself at least for such
a result. — And do the best you can
a little longer. For I don't think it
can last much longer. At least an

Cant without help of me — Same quarter —
I cant Say any thing of our army & prospects fearing
that I might not do it justice. Wiser heads
than mine are directing in these eventful times
and all I can Say is God grant they may
not Err — I Hope you allow my coming to be
allmost like going home when there to see
and Sam enough though I did not meet
you — I did take and saw all personally & —
believing in these dear Sweet letters. And
appreciating every word of each — I only beg
that you favor me as often as possible
with Such toons. My dearest & only pleasure
on this [illegible] —
all [illegible]

I suggested in my last if you found it
insupportable for you to remain at home
that you must make the best arrangement
you can & do what you think best for
yourself & little ones. I don't feel competent
to advise you. as I can't see what circumstances
may turn up) so I must trust you & the
advice of your friends. (You must excuse
haste & a short letter this time. My will
is good. but the corporeal man weary.
Remember me affectionately to all friends
& kin. kiss my dear sweet children
And know me ever the same truly
devoted husband. J. H. [illegible]

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Correspondence, 1865: March-April

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1

McDonald's Bird Division —
Brigade [illegible] [illegible] —
March 6th 1865 —

My dear Wife —

For a short time this afternoon I write you a short letter hoping that I may add something to your happiness and having obliged [illegible] [illegible] this pleasing duty I am not [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to let an opportunity pass without writing knowing that you are ever anxious for me. First I will give a view of our camp. We are the [illegible] [illegible] with our [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from the [illegible]

2

He been a felicity of good supplied & would
appear to stand his happily as a being a sort
2nd nature for surely it begins to feel from the
prospects around us that we had no well
make up our minds to spend the balance of
our lives here as to the ambition of aspiring
men for [illegible] [illegible] for my life that there is
any [illegible] [illegible] to the North. I hope however
it may be decided and that we may soon
be blessed with peace at any rate if we
have any thing else for it would seem
that what the influential parties would
have us our own Government will

distroy by arms, in Cyclopidiam. I am perfectly 3
disgusted. Sullen, Sick & worn out with all
the miserable patch work of Government.
And would be willing to take you and my
dear little ones. and relinquish all else of
interest to my own dear Country - & turn
my back on it - for ever, Dear. I've never
to Cast an other Vote (But - Lord no Country
further than my own happiness & interest
Coul'd - "You can well appreciate my feelings
under the heavy pressure of the present
Gloomy Circumstances that overshadow
us - the news that reach us is that we
have evacuated Richmond Petersburg &

4

Charleston long since abandoned. Sherman moving with unbroken success through South Carolina will soon threaten the heart of North Carolina. And our ranks depleted by desertion until a Regiment will hardly number a company. The people all ready for any thing even a disgraceful submission. Then can a man hope under such a state of affairs. "If the men would come back to the army & the people sustain us I still think we could whip the field with the means to save lives & cause. But Th..... the trouble will they come! my answer is no & I believe it

And owing to the scarcity of men it is
impossible for a soldier to learn any
necessity announced that pertains to his
own interest or that of his family. —
So I will have to give up all hope of
doing what I would be my dearest pleasure
[illegible] something for my family while I
suffer all for my country. But thus it
is the [illegible] dare most must now be —
asked to endure his duties & sacrifice
all for his Country — "[illegible] [illegible] thundering"?
I am thank God still sane & am still
willing to trust my own judgement in —

[illegible] that pertain to me [illegible] mine and if
I could know [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] would in the service
of my Country I will know no country
if you would give [illegible] [illegible] you may [illegible]
when I have enquired as regards the [illegible] I
think if the war continues that we would be
[illegible] [illegible] for what may be our fate —
The letter you wrote is lost now altogether
as an [illegible] to the [illegible] desired since
we have a Jackson instead of [illegible] —
I want you in in your reply to give
me a true unvarnished statement of your
condition and family so I can submit —

a proposition. And if not answered then
I will determine what course to pursue —
If you have an opportunity send me a pair
of Boots. I think I can make out
for a while with the clothing I have; if
you purchase any for me I don't want
any thing of the Soldier about it —
Bob Long is the bearer of this he is —
refused by the surgeon & sent home —
he is ready to start & hurries me so I
must close. With love to all. & kisses
to the children too. But I [illegible]
[illegible] many more to send her own Lovin[g]
[illegible] Your devoted Husband

McDonalds Batt^n near West
Point March 13th 1865

Dear Sallie,

After a long & fatiguing march in pursuit of a raid from Memphis which came as far down as Ripley & so returned before we could get up with them. We are again in camp at this place and I fear will not get much rest ere we will start in another direction. A heavy column is reported moving from the Tenn River via Blue Mountain towards Selma, we know no good news from our armies the enemy are pressing & threatening us at every point we have hard fighting and a plenty

2 obligations for the Spring Campaign
God grant a favorable result. But how can
we hope for such a result unless our soldiers
will return to the army & help us. Will the
People of the South let this [illegible]
upon a few brave men and then grossly blame
them for a failure. It is not injustice but a
gross inhumanity which a just God would
seem to [illegible] them accountable
But so it is & take our help [illegible]. My soul &
drooping spirits have been cheered
in the last few days by your dear sweet
letter by our friend Col Pitman & so Col C—
The last named Col gives rather a gloomy ...

[illegible] as to the state of the country 3
[illegible] further [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] —
the same Doctor told me when we
commenced to fight this war, "the more and
[illegible] sympathy" My first [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] Blood [illegible] propitiatory [illegible] [illegible] will
[illegible] though the Confederacy may [illegible]
[illegible] of the sweetest [illegible] to me. I
have & am thus reminded that it [illegible]
will there is still one [illegible] [illegible] —
[illegible] cling to & fasten on no matter
where I may wander through this dangerous
[illegible] of [illegible] & toil! [illegible]
[illegible] no higher aspirations of earth than

Than to live to one such a station. I am pained to hear of your marrying a girl that undertakes to model & form a manner character of. Marriage causes many wishes to spend a miserable life. The world is full of such by my observation. — — —

I did hear that I can advise you more than I have as regards your matters at home. If you have acted wisely in this I write by my authority that I fear & you must do the same. I can't promise anything as regards my prospects to come home. I shall use every effort to answer your wishes & necessities at all times but nothing that will tend to dishonor, though it destroy me.

"Home"
March 18th 1865.

My precious Husband,

The long looked for messenger of love has arrived at last!! & Oh! can I tell you how each sweet word entered my heart, reviving my drooping spirits, & thrilling my whole soul with inexpressible delight & gratitude to God that my Husband still lived, still enjoyed the blessing of health. All doubts & anxieties dispersed as the dews of the morning before the shining rays of the sun. I breathed freely once more.

The impassioned eloquence of those flashing eyes were before me as I perused those tender lines. Oh! how blissful to know that I (unworthy as I am) am enshrined in that <u>noble</u> Heart. the boundless love of which I would not exchange for all the kingdoms of this world. Had I the gift of poesy, my darling I would pour out my soul to thee, for there are feelings rich & deep, welling up in my soul; to which I cannot give utterance. The realities of a monotonous life, nor the bitter cup of sorrow have destroyed the romance of

my love for thee. it is enchanting to sit & muse over those sacred hours of bliss that have fled on the wings of the past & picture to myself a resurrection of them in the blissful future; when there shall be a sweet reunion— Oh! yes I do trust & feel that God in his mercy will spare you to me.

But what am I doing? giving vent to the sacred feelings of my heart, the spontaneous ebullitions that cannot be repressed, when it may fall into the hands of some idly curious person, instead of my own one, & then I shall be laughed at as a weak, sensitive woman. (just what I am) for I was born to look up. to cling to the oak for support. but now my support is temporarily removed & I sink into utter insignificance—

March 16th

Since writing the above my darling, I recd. your sweet letter of the 6th; the one written at Oxford has not arrived; so only two have made their appearance as yet. You do not deceive yourself when you think that your letters contribute to my happiness: next to your dear, sweet self. I had rather be visited by one of them, than anything else.

Your last letter has caused me many hours of deep & painful thoughts. (Still, I would not have been deprived of those heart speakings for anything on earth) painful, because you seem to despair of getting a detail; those words are almost a death knell to all my hopes & aspirations. I cannot give up the idea of having you at home, this year, without anguish of heart; I must confess that my patience is almost gone, & when the hope of having peace, in this spring shall have faded away as an evanescent shadow, I feel that my spirits will droop.

If I could have you with me, I could bear the calamities & privations of this war in meekness. Do I make an idol of you? if so, forgive me Heavenly Father & "help me to worship only Thee" (I am unprepared for your proposition about the navy, from the fact that I sanguinely expected to claim your services this year. And oh! how can I consent to anything that will place you farther from me, and perhaps lay you liable to disease. Your safety is more precious to me than millions of solid gold would be. I know that God can take care of you, as well in one place as another, but oh! to be denied the hope of seeing you occasionally is, bitter bitter!!

1862

Your view of the state of our country, echoes my sentiments, I do not deem our government worth the sacrifices which are being made to sustain it. Such demoralization I never dreamed of. I will not try & trouble you with what I have seen & heard. I do not wish to render your hard lot any more so.

Berta says you must not send her ring, but bring it, this is her own message. And Royster says you promised him a star & says he will raise you some chickens if you will bring it. You must answer Charl's letter if you recd it. She has knit you a nice pair of socks.

Young makes this Headqts- but works for Goodwin, Bonney &c. I never see him when I go down on the farm consequently know nothing of his plans. he is an independent free gentleman. Stafford is trying to rent land of me & he intoxicated all the while. The Yankees in order to demoralize our Country permit any amount of whiskey brought out. Jim says tell Mas John we are all here & doing the best we can. You can imagine how good that is. Unless Vic will take Specimen, I do not see what is to become of him - Mr Hilliard declined doing so. if he was in good order, I think it would be advisable to sell him, he is ruined from neglect, I fear. I shall get you some clothing soon, if possible. Times are getting awful in here. Speculators alone seem to thrive. Oh! for a better state of things!! I have succeeded in getting some (5) ploughs at $16,00 a piece. (I enclose a letter for inspection) Young I learn intends to cultivate 10 acres of corn. Berta & Royster send kisses to Papa.

God bless my beloved Husband & restore to me I pray. Your true & faithful Wife.

1

Co. B. McDonalds Battal
Jacksons Div. Forrest Cav.
March 20th 1865—

My Dear Wife

I wrote you a short note per Mr. C. Boyd [illegible] a convenient opportunity [illegible] from [illegible] the [illegible] I [illegible] desist from doing [illegible] the same again, knowing that a day's absence from our home would be more [illegible] to [illegible] your [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] never more dissatisfied [illegible] condition and [illegible] to give a [illegible] is my [illegible] If I could have [illegible] I would [illegible] with you to say goodbye [illegible] more but [illegible] all [illegible] with you for the balance of my life. I told Mr. C to tell you that I had determined for the future to consider nothing above your [illegible] and if they called me [illegible] to come — I [illegible] I have served 3 years still I am demanded for the army without any regard for my interest [illegible] from the past [illegible] still the same [illegible]. I am willing to serve still another year provided I am allowed a month or two to see to.

My [illegible] at Home this Summer Say
From the 15th of [April?] until some
time in Aug. I think if I could be
with the Negroes during the grazing season
It would answer a Hope. I think if you
would make an application to the Officers
of my Comd. If you think [illegible] a substitute
[illegible]. the [illegible] would be granted. If not
[illegible] I would be [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible], If you can employ a boy
[illegible] 18 yrs old, to [illegible] to my [illegible]
[illegible] 2 months I think I can get off
[illegible] [illegible] my Sorrel horse & take
my Cutting dog with a reasonable pay besides
If he will come for 50$ per month in
Greenback, pay [illegible] It would be big wages
but I think it would pay me to [illegible]
I [illegible] [illegible] from [illegible] and
amount [illegible] [illegible] Then [illegible] from this
Family the big [illegible] as a Teacher I
Hope she is a good one. & a companion
for the Girls. I feel a deep interest
in their welfare. & I think the sooner
they are persuaded to feel above such
fellows as Merritt C & others that

Dear Wife   Jackson April 28th 1865

You will find that I wrote you on a Scout from Pearl River I expected Sir H to be the bearer of the letter but he did not get off. Mr. Cochran is going to pass through the neighbourhood and will return & meet us at Tupelo Mississippi the 5 or 6 of May. (This will be a fine opportunity for you to send me what I want. He is perfectly reliable ~~and~~ one of my best friends. I cant write any more as Mr C— will start in a few moments. Write to me by every opportunity for that will be my only pleasure as long as my duty calls to lead this desperate life but we must make the best of it & God grant it may soon end. The news from the Trans Miss department are cheering. My kindest regards to all friends. Kiss my dear children for me & remember me as your devoted Husband

J. P. S—

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Correspondence, 1861-1865: undated

Folder 18 of 23

Child than the letter. (Anna & Blanche
born with a very susceptible organ sound
to be guided until they are able to
appreciate what constitutes a true
Christian — , And a proper companion
March 21st I find that Mr. McGrock [will not leave] until
the morning so it affords me more time to
write to you. Having asked me for my
opinion as regards the cause of our affairs
I will proceed to give it by first showing
what seems to me our Drawing for the better
Conduct of the Cause. "The failure of the Army
Campaign is Charged to the [illegible] of the

Administration J. E. Johnson & thus opposed
the plan suggested by the opposing party was
to give up the Coast defences [illegible] &
concentrate all our strength in the
interior, & thus compel the Enemy to come
after us. [illegible] take [illegible] time &
transportation, which I think was attainable
at the time suggested. But it is rather still
more now to be involved in great doubt
sufficient time to prepare our army and
the People, for such a move, both of which
are badly demoralized. So [illegible] the
wisdom of the [illegible] finished with victory

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Encountering our great disadvantages at the same time. Will we not be possible by the mercy of Heaven for us to make a successful fight this Spring. Though I think we will be able to attain our Army Organization. So long as we can do that never with a full man? Our Chances are good for a Separate independence — i — Seems all ways Continued our military Strength only serves to give us time to await some political effect in European World. That will force a settlement of our difficulties. — —

But the Earliest question comes after all this to the Individual particularly the Soldier

as to whether he will reap a reward to
try for his [illegible]. I [illegible] no. If there is
a [illegible] it [illegible] it. It is not
his [illegible]. If he can make security for
a [illegible] or [illegible] the [illegible] he will have accomplished
a wonderful [illegible]. This mind you is only my
[illegible] Believing all the [illegible] as I see them.
[illegible] as all [illegible] true to themselves & their
country none had more hope than I. None more
willing to [illegible] their faults. But I am sorry
[illegible] admit there has been a sad
and all [illegible] fatal change. Not only in
the People But the Government. The Soldiers
themselves [illegible] down more & more than
[illegible] to [illegible] of them. Still willing & eager for [illegible]

And kill the Rep [illegible] I should
suppose not from the results. I
[illegible] they [illegible]
Since [illegible] acting [illegible]
[illegible] candidates [illegible] 12 [illegible]
[illegible] all [illegible]. They have been sent for
time & again but they don't come. I am told
Old [illegible] your age to give them the last
chance. I want you to refuse to send
any such soldiers. You can't afford it
in the first place & in the next I am
satisfied they will never do the country any
good & don't deserve any thing from
the hands of the people.

I want you to talk to Mr Cochran 8
he is a kind of man. I write fully as
regards our circumstances, so as
to enable me to decide what I had best
do. I am so tired that the war will
continue until all [illegible] to [illegible] themselves
of that negroes, my advice is make up our
minds at once to live without them as
slaves, that is what I think is finally decided
by the acts of our own government —
So that leaves us to our [illegible] though I believe
myself that I can make a support for
you & my children. The more you

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make a sure the better to be prepared
for the day [illegible] to be ended
[illegible]. I am [illegible] I am [illegible]
& [illegible] but [illegible] neglect it for I shall [illegible]
[illegible] of the [illegible] than [illegible]
of the [illegible] I have [illegible] in my [illegible]
& should be [illegible] at last I have the
[illegible] that [illegible] are [illegible]
to be [illegible]. And were it not for you &
my children I would choose death rather than
[illegible] such [illegible] for the future.
I wish I could feel more hopeful. [illegible] upon
my [illegible] the [illegible] the same
they are intended only for you —

"that I saw you down with 'Specimen' of"
He is still on the farm you had better
get [illegible] to the farm & see the [illegible]
on the [illegible] [illegible] there to something
[illegible] you [illegible] cost [illegible] Clothing give
You must ride as often as you can a gallop
every day mind [illegible] your [illegible] I [illegible]
[illegible] Ruther is at School tell Bertha she must
[illegible] her lessons good & keep up with [illegible] —
Tell Brother he is [illegible] man, and I want to
write to him but I am afraid he would not read
it. (bless the [illegible] Boy) Remember me affectionately
to [illegible] family Mr. B & [illegible] — And to all the
negroes — — Your [illegible] Husband

[illegible] Letters sent & [illegible]
comforting [illegible] & [illegible] what
bright in the future. Knowing that
I would not get home from my letter &
the other children, then sending I was
aroused from my dream by Frank C.
Arrival in Camp. I will not attempt
the description of my pleasure & something
satisfaction in the receipt of your loving
letter, the articles of clothing are entirely
satisfactory come in the nick of time. Feel
Providence bountiful in providing for my necessities
The arm of God shielding me even amid the dangers

of the Terrible Conflict through which I have passed. It was then [illegible] [illegible]. To his will discharge our duty & uncomplainingly yield to his decree. It may seem hard to the finite. But who will dare question infinite wisdom. As sure as God created the world just so sure will he rule it to his own glory and the eventual good of man. I should have constantly endeavour to relieve your anxieties and gratify your desires. And pledge you not to act cowardly under any circumstances or do any act to make you think me less noble, or deserving your devotion. If I leave my family

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[N]othing is so much a spotless reputation.

[I] am very sorry that I would be so bound for the [illegible] of season but still it may be for the best

[Yo]u must not dispair [illegible] & be diligent

[an]d all will be well as that.

I am surprised that Tommy should act as he has. I don't think it his fault so much as the parties contracting with him. And I want you to tell the Gentleman the right to dispose of my property though my prope[illegible] I still claim. And I hold any man personally responsible for an infringement upon these rights in my absence. "Tommy has no right

to dispose of them safely by my s[illegible]. He is
to select any place that he prefers to live &
you the party to contract with for the services
to be awarded the same of the balance of
my negroes & money if his consent [illegible] with the
you tell him for me that he has done well
& for it I am disposed to favor him but
this is to be done so as not to create a
dissatisfaction with the other negroes
Give my kindest regards to all friends
Love to your Pa & Aunt Kate & family
Tell B & K they must be good children & when
I come I will bring the presents for them. I haven't
time to write more. Ever yr. devoted husband

Sis you asked if I wanted any
Money [illegible] of some
Confederate Money is so depreciated
that it takes a great deal to [illegible]
any use with the [illegible]. I would
like to have some Confederate
[illegible] provided you can find
anything to send it. Never mind
about sending Postal I believe
I could not wait here. [illegible]
forget to send me my hat when
you can for I am very much
in need of one, I have one on
that I paid 25 for last spring
such a one now would cost 50 or
$60. I shall write to sister
Jennie provided I can get any
more paper I have some!

But it's all patched up in
the Basin with the Southern
Republic. Tell Aunt Fanny I
will write to Uncle Sam
Regular as soon as practicable
Write as soon as you can
Should I fail to write
to Helen & Emma tell them to
take the will for the deed

Again Yr affectionate
Brother

[illegible]

Give my love to all the Parkers
Cousins [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

My dear Husband,

Jim Hatcher is here to day, expecting to go to Corinth in a day or two. As I have just written to you a day or two previous to this, I only write you a short note. Did you receive my letter by Dr Rodgers? I hope you did. I send you a little box of soap. As I do not wish you to be without. I was suffering with sick head ache when he came, but hastened down stairs as soon as I recovered to see if I could obtain some tidings from my beloved. Sure enough he informed me that you have been in a heavy skirmish but came out safe. How thankful I am!! May you always be as fortunate. May God shield you from your enemies & disease & restore you to your loved ones is my fervent prayer. I shall look for you continually untill I see you. The strawberries will soon be in full blast, so do come soon if possible. Little sick this morning. I dropped to sleep & dreamed you came home. Such a transport of pleasure seized me that I was completely unstrung when I awoke to be undeceived by stern reality. With a fervent prayer that I may soon see you & that the God of battles may bless & save you. Our little ones are well. I am your devoted Wife —

Give my love to Aunt Rita & tell them I reckon they can read by this time. I shall expect to find them very smart when I come Home. (Sallie I wish you would enquire how Specimen is doing the Lot he was in when I left was a very dry one and bare of Grass he ought to be fattened now if it could be done. Call Jim's attention to him & tell him he had better go out & see him. how is your wheat crop, & how is your meat holding out. Give the minutiae of your farming operations when you write again

Tell your visit – you must suspone until
you come so county when we are I will
inform you when I think it would be
prudent – You need not look for me it
be impossable to get a furlough for the
next 2 or 3 months. Now I must bid you
Goo bye darling Sallie Come to Aunt Kate
& tell her I will ever feel greatful to her
for her kindeness to you. Send me affectionately
to your Pa's family and all my friends &
kiss my dear children for me & make them
love you for me. I havent time to
look over this letter so you must make
the best of it – Your devoted Husband

I can't tell when I will be able to make
my application to be released from the service every
thing is so unsettled now. It may be a month or
more before any definite business is done. But I
assure you my darling that it will be done in
earnest as soon as there is any prospect for
success. I can't bear the idea of your living as you
have done for 3 years. You have done nobly &
of it I will can be proud. And feel that
your sacrifices & hardships demand of still
a [illegible] & [illegible] gratification & grateful sense
of me which if God spare me you shall have

As I passed out to Oxford I stayed all night with Mr Scruggs. Youngs mules & & wagon is there. He was treated all right from Holly Springs though I have nothing of him since. I told Mr. S. if he did not return soon you would have to sell to send off the the wagon. You must try & do the very best you can towards having the farm repaired so if I should not get home myself. That I can commission [illegible] a [illegible]. get some Good Young Plo[illegible] & tell him to get every thing in good fix. Remember me affectionately to your Pa's family Aunt H & J. & all friends Kiss the dear Children for Pa. Ever yr devoted Husband

1

Harrisburg Apl 25th

My Dear Wife

You will see from the heading of this that we are off on our old Battle ground. We moved up yesterday & will be here a few days for a long Raid I could guess where but it would not be prudent to give my conjectures as this might fall in to hands not fit to know military secrets. So being compelled to withhold from you our destination and then

2

bring no more news encouraging. If so I will be towards you in this communication. As I am in Camp under such circumstances silent & hopeful feeling that He who created & knows the end from the beginning in wisdom doeth all things right. Let us press on in the faithful discharge of our duty never fearing though dark clouds may sometimes threaten us now yet we know not but it may be the dawn that will bring the dawn of a bright & prosperous day. The loss of A. Lincoln

3 is truly a great disaster to us at this time but it is to be hoped we will recover from it soon. In fact I am beginning [illegible] that we will [illegible] is [illegible] so long as the soldier is faithful & determined which seems to be the condition of the Army throughout. It will doubtless tend to protract the war, but in other respects I cannot [illegible] that we are materially injured. —

I called at Capt Fields as I am prepared much to my pleasure found that K had gone to [illegible]

4 I think his idea is a good one to move his family & remain down here until the war is over. He can enjoy the society of his family undisturbed — & at the same time be employed profitably. — Wish it was in my power to give you such a home. But I fear there is no such good fortune for you. Your responsibilities in the [illegible] & family be unwilling to make any change. You will then be one of the heroines of the war & stem it through —

will & you have suffered.
Though it has been
but a short time since
I left you it seems
an age. My thoughts
are that I should be
compelled to leave you
all on earth that I
would live a moment
for. Never without dread
did I ever think you
would be reduced to
such straits & I being
away. I must answer
me. Has my Country
demand this of me
or am I rash ...

to Johnson's Isl., do I
love my family less
than other men, my god
knows that very truth
I forgo as for them
comfort protection &
happiness. It is indeed
a sacrifice but God
save my wife & my
children, & will he
that dwells in justice
not protect & provide
for them.
Oh I can trust [illegible] Can
on him! It will all
be well.
You must forgive me my
my children for such sentiments

It is a burden on my heart that others are sickness, you know me & know how to appreciate me. So save what heart spirits to trust you no other [illegible] but them. I haven't seen a letter from you since I am through. Though I hope for [illegible] and them [illegible] that they are on the way. You must never think I is neglect in my part when you don't hear from me I write by any opportunity —

Advise with your Pa — In any thing that pertains to your affairs at home, — I am satisfied to wish his judgment above any man I know on Earth & what ever he does will satisfy me. Give my love to Pa & family — & remember me affectionately to all yo Pa's family. & kiss the Children for pa, & try to be happy & contented with your hard — fortune for the sake of your devoted husband

" Fear not ABRAM, for I am thy SHIELD, and exceeding great reward."—Gen. xv. i.

[illegible]

Dear Sis

I am heartily glad [illegible]

you have heard from that — Your husband as you call him, & am quite fearful that you have not seen any more from him at all. And the day after I received your letter, Mr. Thurman made his appearance, accompanied by Mr. Tracy They took dinner with me on that day which was Friday last. John & I exchanged letters & I would say that Dr. Chamberlain assured you of the safety & cheerfulness of yr. Cousin, but notice that [illegible] the right. I do think those Yankees have the assurance & impudence of, well I ought to say the Devil, but that is too harsh, because

me while I take Abe out & curse
him, & put him in his place. This
sheet of paper came from the Lou[illegible]
bought with many other articles, among
love letters, most very fanciful &
amusing) Perhaps there may some very
heard of. [illegible] (I [illegible]) and
being a copy where is the southern
belong. from their letters I have read
I think the ladies do all the courting
But what disturbs me now is the
Conscript Law, can it be possible
that we have to serve twelve months
more without being granted the
pleasure of seeing those we love & have
been separated from so long? I can't
think of it. So it is that our
[illegible] have not [illegible]
amongst us to disband us, Do they
think that patriotism has become
extinct among us. And that we will

of wealthier homes to stay, & some
are not used in the field
& leave others to fight the Battles of
our Country. No one is inclined to
bravely when the war commenced
say [illegible] to the contrary. And before
that I compromised myself in that
manner I would rather die & go under
the sod in the Cemetery. So after the 18
of May I am determined to see
you all if I have to desert. After
that I am willing to bear the penalty
if it be death. Since the battle I
have been acting as orderly sergeant
& I declare you can't imagine how
troublesome. So many dead & so many
"playing off!" It seems that I alone
will have to represent Company A.
I almost wish sometimes that
I could be sick just to be in fashion
with the balance. The battle came
very near breaking up our "Corps."

on my. I have been on another detail
in order to accompany the sick to
Columbus Ohio, & my old Comrade -
[illegible] Beasley [illegible] on duty [illegible]
[illegible] to [illegible] him that
[illegible] 12 [illegible] for duty quite a [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] sick & [illegible]
your Bro. Beasley. a brother in [illegible]
to [illegible] Father [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
will entertain you [illegible]. Sis you
must not be so desponding for often -
John is situated so that he can't write
to you. Be assured that if any accident
befall yr beloved Husband, That I am
here to assist him & comfort him & -
will be sure & let you know of it,
I must close. Much love to all & a -
salute to Big Chas for the snow-
drops & complimentary wish. Kiss -
Nat & Bert, & tell them Uncle Ben will see
them some of the sweet [illegible]

Yr Brother Beverly T.

Corinth April 26th

My Dear Wife

I have just returned from the 18th Reg, and it is now 9 o'clock and yet have not had dinner on this busy camp, for such it has been to day. [illegible] around & [illegible] for a fine army visit [illegible] the [illegible] Lines [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to day. left [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] that [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

I was happy to meet you with good news from home to see some one that had seen my sweet wife and dear little Children, and to peruse again and again a letter from my darling Lillie bearing [illegible] many lines the faithful and

and affection of my wife and
children, Sympathy [illegible] of [illegible]
and [illegible] grace in my little [illegible]
that has and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] of my [illegible], Ah, yes, I often
think that a man should be so [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] is making
a sacrifice too great for any thing
save a [illegible] [illegible] for which
we strike. And I have a [illegible]
faith that God will [illegible] no [illegible]
a sacrifice that will amply reward
for all.
I am sorry we cannot correspond in
sympathy for it is a dear and
[illegible] to me. And if I tiff you
with my [illegible] and [illegible]
expressions, know that it is my
nature and pardon me; ——
I sent your Pa and Uncle [illegible]
2 [illegible] Pipes which I am sorry
they did not receive. I called to
see Bro This morning, but found he

had been detailed to carry the
sick to Columbus Miss. I called
on Russian yesterday he was with
his Reg at ~~Cor~~ Monday the
boys report him well and thought
they would be in camp again to
day. We have stirring times here
now. everything is preparation for
an other battle, after which if
I am spared I will try and
pay you a visit. We have a
great many sick. I was told
to day in the 4th Reg they could
not send out over 250 well men
We are getting reinforcements here
every day, and I think [illegible]
for them to attack us Victory
is ours. but if we go after them
they will shelter under there
Gun Boats, and be emboldened
for an other attack. Did you
know in the last fight I shot
a Yank in 50 feet of a Gun Boat

and cooked in twenty minutes as
cleverly as I ever read in my life.
I see if I could not see one on
the Boat, it was impossible. The
Monitor stood silent & motionly
seemingly conscious of her powers
Lubbie you must write to me
often it is a great satisfaction
to know that you write if I don't
get the letters, direct your letters
here until I write to you from
some other point & when you
send them by private hands direct
to the Regiment and when them
to be dropped in the Post Office
Remember me affectionately to
all your Pa's family. I never was
in better health in my life, hoping
that ere long to be with [illegible] I
close with a fervent prayer
that God may bless and intertwine
all our family relations in peace

Yr devoted husband

Your letter of the 23rd May, written at Capt Geddes is the last recd from you, so you see dearest it has been nearly a month since that was written & I am getting quite impatient to hear from you. I shall try to get Tom to take you a pair of drawers & a shirt at least, I have another shirt & two pairs of pants, one pair I think are too thick for summer.
Make haste & write us where to meet you unless you can come home, which would be still more agreeable.
I hope you had the pleasure of seeing Bob, if you went to Johnston's army

I rec'd a letter from him a few days ago. I should like to tell you of the tart correspondence going on between him & Col. Chester, (through me) with regard to Bev's horse, his "diseased, rotten footed" horse as Col. C. terms him — but will wait, perhaps you saw Bev, if so he posted you. We feel very anxious about Bro Roscoe, Em has not rec'd a letter from him for some time. The children send a thousand kisses to Papa, wish I could deliver them in person. They talk about you constantly. Charl joins in love, says she will write some time when I am not writing as you would not enjoy a

letter from her than one of mine is on hand; she is laboring under a wrong impression I know. She wrote you by Julius Strong, but poor fellow, his heart failed him & he came back forgetting to forward the letter. Dock S— married Miss Lizzie Walker a short time ago. I did not at first recognize Capt R— he was one of our old Nashville party you remember.
Aunt Kate says I must never forget to remember her in love to you. I saw the notorious Mr Thomas at Uncle Joel's burial he rode past the rockaway & bowed very politely, I did not return it, I believe Charl & Sarah did, however.

2

I fear the "Flag of Truce" will not call for my letter, so I must fix this up hurriedly & send it over to Mrs Woodson's as Col. R— will be apt to call there.

I suppose I shall have to keep your clothing & take it to you. May God bless you my best beloved, watch over you & preserve you from danger & restore you to your truly devoted,

Wife

The servants send love to you they often wish Mars John was at home.

Sallie.

Mrs B. sends respects to you—

I learn the conscriptors caught Van Thomas, on yesterday, what a glorious thing, if they will hold him!!! a lady from near Vicksburg who has two sons in the Va army went to Esq Thompson's walking, also sick; stating that the Yanks had distroyed every thing she had & she was making her way to relatives in Tipton County, her sickness proving to be small pox, Dr Karr had her moved in the loom house, where she died & Mr Thompson tried in vain, to get some one to bury her, & last sunday the citizens burned the house with the body in it. What a horrible resort!! it was a terrible case of small pox.

Helen staid with me last night. she says Linnie gives as her reason for not coming here she does not reckon Cousin Tallie wants her, suppose she thinks as cousin John does. She is wrong in the first instance, but right in the latter. I shall always try to believe that everything my dear husband does, is right.

I do wish I had a good horse to send you Mr James Godbey is anxious to ride one up there for you. Good horses are very hard to find.

Do let me hear from you as soon as possible. If I could only turn man untill the war is over, I could do a great deal, but it would do no good to don breeches, as I have only the nerve of a weak minded woman.

The negroes are doing as well as ever, I have no faults to find of them; if meddling people will let them alone, they will acquit themselves creditably, but if talking will ruin us we are certainly in great danger. I intend to remain here & take care of things to the best of my ability, as long as there is a roof over my head. Some tell me I had better take everything valuable I have & leave here, but it will take something more than threats to drive me from the home that my kind husband has so generously provided for me.

"Be it ever so humble, there is no place like home."

Royster is always speaking of Papa, he is growing like a pig. He says poor Mama hasn't got anything but two little children here.

When, my dear one, do you think the war will end? Bro Rosco thinks everything depends upon the fight in Va. Oh that it was over, the suspense is almost as bad as the reality. Let it be ever so bad. When I commenced this, I expected to send it by Tom Baily, but find Mr Godbey will see you first, so it will give me an opportunity to write again. A pleasant task, I assure you.

A messenger comes for my letter, so I must post it up half finished. Goodbye, my beloved. May our heavenly Father protect you & restore you to me ere long.

Your devoted, Wife.

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Postcard, 1883

Folder 19 of 23

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Envelopes, 1860s

Folder 20 of 23

By politeness of ... Thurman
Mr. John Price Thurman.
P. C. McDonald's Batt.
Jackson Division

Mrs. S. E. Thurman
Hickory Withe
Fayette Co
Tenn

Be sure to
read this.

Mrs. S. E. Thurman
Morning Sun
Tenn

Care of
Mr. Rich. Donelson

Dear little Rayoler must wear this
common apron when he goes in the
kitchen to eat gravy — Aunt Kate

Mr John P. Thomas—
Capt. McDonald's Comp—
Forrest's Reg. T. O.
Corinth
Miss—

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Ephemera, 1856-1896 and undated

Folder 21 of 23

Mr J. P. Thurman & Lady.
Woodbourne.
Tenn.

Miss Bettie L. [illegible] Martin

[illegible], Miss.

Mr & Mrs J. M. Hoffa

151. Julien Street

Mr. & Mrs. Alex. Donelson,

At Home,

Tuesday Evening, May 1, 1866,

AT 8 O'CLOCK.

Wm. L. McLean. **Helen Donelson.**

We depend
upon
you

MEMPHIS, TENN.
JAN 23
11 A.M.
Mrs J P Thurman
Memphis
Tenn.

Complimentary Party

TO THE YOUNG LADIES OF THE

FEMALE INSTITUTE.

Your company is desired at the FEMALE INSTITUTE at 8 o'clock, P. M., on the 25th instant.

Jackson, June 2nd, 1856.

Complimentary Party

TO THE YOUNG LADIES OF THE

FEMALE INSTITUTE.

Your company is desired at the FEMALE INSTITUTE at 8 o'clock, P. M., on the 25th instant.

Jackson, June 2nd, 1856.

[illegible]

With Compliments

[illegible]

Master B. Thurman

With Compliments

from Linnie.

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Series 2. Photographs and Newspaper.

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Photographs and Note

Folder 22 of 23

These are from the
Album taken from a
Federal boat - that was
captured by Hornets
men, and given to our
Father - I doubt you re-
member the leather bound
Album - these are the only
photos we saved - Wish we
had them all now - We hated
them then because they were
Yankee pictures.

Berta Thurman La Prade

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

New York Times, 8 April 1862

Folder 23 of 23

Note: this item was not filmed

#5107
JOHN P. and SALLIE ECKLIN THURMAN PAPERS

Items separated

P-5107/1

B F Young

CH REUTLINGER PHOT

BROWN, WILLIAMS & CO., 41 N. FOURTH ST., ST. LOUIS, MO.

Wednesday
July 10th 1862

CH. REUTLINGER.
PHOTOGRAPHE
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ET
112 Rue Richelieu 112
PARIS.

DECAMP & CRANE,
Photographers,
302 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.

A. J. HASSLER'S
Photographic Gallery,
130 Third street, east of Cathcart's,
ST. PAUL.
The plate from which this picture was made will be preserved. Copies can be obtained at any time.

S. F. DU BOIS.

DOYLESTOWN, Pa.